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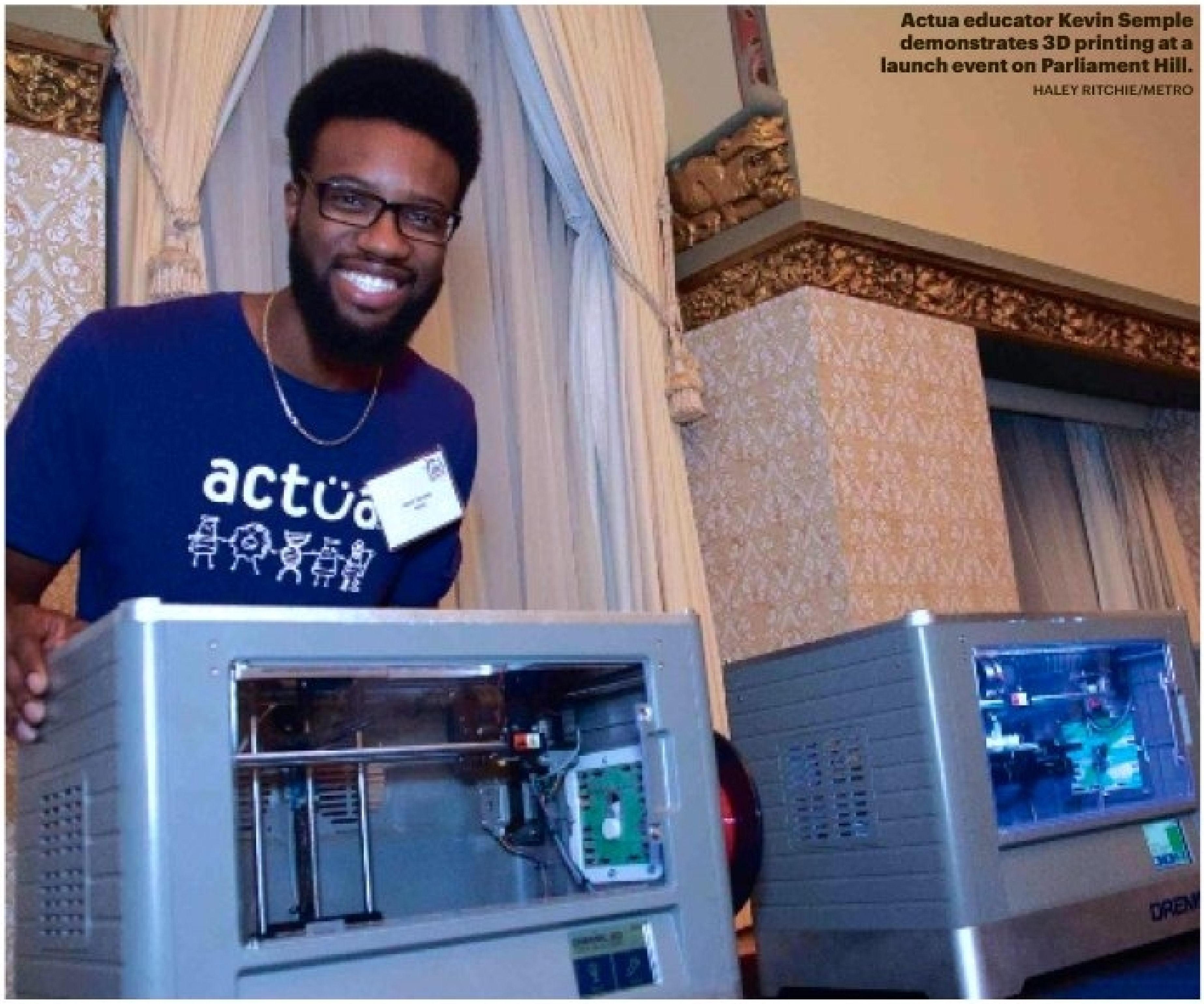

Actua educator Kevin Semple demonstrates 3D printing at a launch event on Parliament Hill.
HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

TAKING THE CODE ON THE ROAD

Science van to embark on cross-Canada tour metroNEWS

Cases clogging courts

JUSTICE SYSTEM

Ottawa Crown prosecutors average 240 cases per year

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

The average Crown prosecutor in Ottawa carries 244 cases a year — a situation that people in the justice system say is leading to delays and a clogged courthouse.

Earlier this month, Adam Picard, who was charged with first-degree murder in the death of Fouad Nayel, was released because it had taken four years to bring his case to trial.

Brendan Crawley, a spokesperson for Ontario's ministry of the attorney general, said the average case load between April 2015 and March 2016 was 244 cases per Crown prosecutor — up slightly from a case load of 236 the previous year.

Crawley said that's a simplified calculation that doesn't show the true picture of the demands Crown prosecutors are under.

"The assignment of each criminal case to individual Crowns is based on a number of factors, including the seriousness of the offence, case complexity, trial Crown experience, and scheduling demands," he said.

Since 2014, there has been an average of 44 Crown attorneys in Ottawa, he added.

Kate Matthews, president of the Ontario Crown Attorney's Association, said that's a heavy case load and the cases are more complicated than they once were, with more video or technical evidence and other issues.

"The cases themselves are far more complicated, so it takes much longer to prepare," she said. "That is not going to go way, cases are not going to get less complicated."

She said most crowns are spending a significant amount of time in court, making it harder to prepare for cases.

Anne London-Weinstein, president of the Defence Counsel Association of Ottawa, said the issue with Crowns spreads to the rest of the system, with legal aid and other resources also underfunded.

"The overall atmosphere in criminal justice is that there is a lack of funding," she said.

She said she wouldn't speak for prosecutors, but can see they are handling much more work than they used to.

"I can see that the crowns have a lot more on their plate and I can see that they have less time."

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The Obamas are celebrating their last Christmas in the White House. **World**

#Women on boards

Canadian firms more diverse

SURVEY

Women make up 21% of the directors in big companies

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Canada's major corporations have a few more women and a bit more diversity around their boardroom tables — but they are still a long way from reflecting the make-up of the country.

The Canadian Board Diversity Council released its annual survey this week showing that women now make up 21.6 per cent of the directors on the boards of 500 major Canadian companies. That's up slightly from 19.5 per cent last year and up significantly from the 10.9 per cent in 2009, when the survey first began.

About 4.5 per cent of board directors said they were a member of a visible minority, 1.8 per cent identified as a person with disabilities, 0.6 identified as Indigenous, and 2.1 per cent said they were a member of the LGBTQ community.

> **Some sectors (like) finance and insurance have more women.**
> Sean Hemraj

Sean Hemraj, vice-president of business development and marketing for the Women's Executive Network, said the numbers are an improvement but there is a lot of work to do.

He said diversity is not just about better representation, but about better business.

"It offers a different perspective that helps organizations recognize, adapt and innovate based on what is happening in the real world," he said.

Not all Canadian industries are created equally on this front. Retail companies had the most gender diversity on the board, with 29.4 per cent, but mining and oil and gas firms were much lower, at 13.1 per cent.

Hemraj said some businesses have done a better job attracting women to their industry.

"We are seeing some sectors (like) finance and insurance have more women, essentially in the talent pipeline, than others like mining, oil and gas," he said.

He said those companies are concerned about the issue and they believe it's just a matter of when.

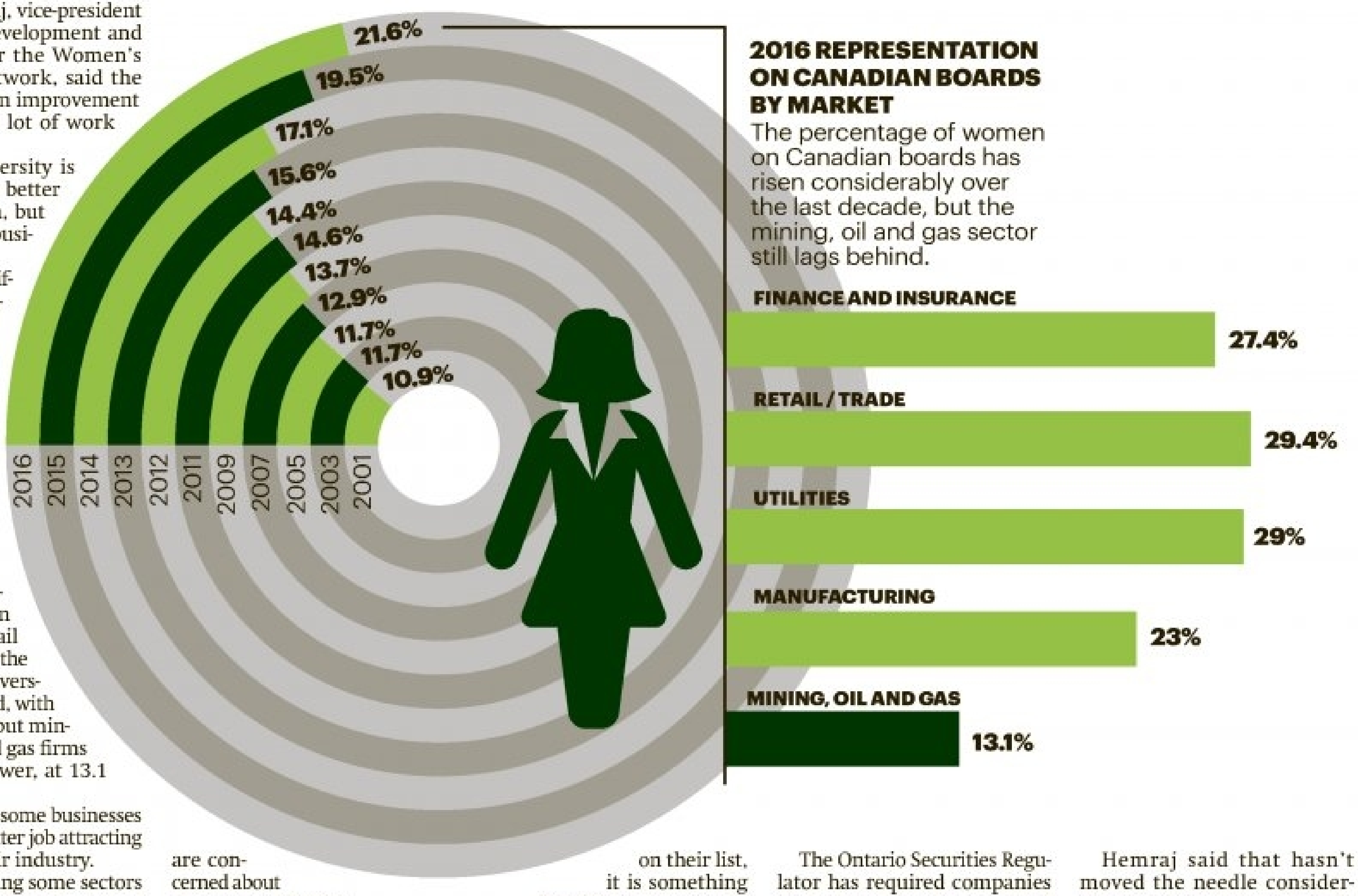
"We have spoken with representatives from those industries and it is definitely a high priority on their list, it is something they're looking to improve on," he said.

Despite those numbers, 76 per cent of directors believe their board is diverse.

The Ontario Securities Regulator has required companies to disclose diversity since 2014 and a bill currently before Parliament would require all companies across the country to do the same.

Hemraj said that hasn't moved the needle considerably, but they still believe it will.

"We haven't seen that as of yet, but that is something we are still hoping to see an impact from."



2016 REPRESENTATION ON CANADIAN BOARDS BY MARKET

The percentage of women on Canadian boards has risen considerably over the last decade, but the mining, oil and gas sector still lags behind.

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Brunch with hip-hop twist

BACKSTAGE PASS

Dishes inspired by some of rap's greatest lyricists

Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

There aren't many spots in Ottawa where you can eat a Notorious BLT, sip some gin and juice, listen to golden-era hip hop and cure a hangover all in one sitting.

Unless you drag your sorry ass into Kinki on the first Sunday of every month.

That's the whole idea behind Aunt Thelma's & Chico's Hip Hop Hangover Brunch — a late-morning recovery breakfast featuring dishes inspired by some of rap's greatest lyricists from the 1990s and early 2000s.

There's the Notorious BLT, Naan Phixion Pizza, Only Built for Cubano Linx, the Kool G Wrap and the Duck Down Poutine, which chef Caroline (Chico) Cichelly says will put you in an "instant food coma."

It's the exact thing you want for a hungover Sunday, where you can load up on grub and then head home and pass out on the couch while watching Die Hard for the 47th time.

"Oh, you will go home die hard," laughs Cichelly.

"It will knock you out."

Cichelly, a chef since she was about 17 years old, has always had hip hop blasting in the kitchen to help get her through those crazy 15-hour shifts when the orders keep piling up. The hangover brunch is her way of giving back and paying homage to those conscious hip-hop artists like Mobb Deep, Sean Price, Tribe, Wu Tang, Souls of Mischief and many other rhymers in the game.

"For me, hip hop has always been playing in the kitchen for me, so it's sort of a great marriage of the two and they blend well together," she says, adding that she always grew up cooking with family. Her uncles were chefs or butchers and she could always be found cooking up a storm in the kitchen with her grandmother. She eventually made her way out west to the Pacific Institute of Culinary Arts in Vancouver, where she polished her cooking craft.

She's also teamed up with Sean Daigle of Aunt Thelma's and incorporates their jerk rub and their delicious homemade pineapple preserve into her dishes. Daigle is also one of the DJs dropping that ol' boom bap while you get your fill.

"For hip hop, I just wanted to give back, pay homage to hip hop, because I am just a super big fan. I am not a rapper or a DJ or anything, so this is just my way of giving back and bringing the community together," she adds.

"If you are a hip-hop fan, this is something really different. There isn't anywhere in Ottawa that is serving food with a DJ playing good tunes."

Good tunes is right. DJ Professor Melé and DJ EZ & friends bring that old-school flair to the decks, playing everything from The Roots and Jurassic 5 to Snoop, Dream Warriors and all the golden-era favourites whose soulful legacies will certainly live on forever.

And where else can you get hip hop-inspired dishes, while listening to hip hop, and not being judged for how drunk you still may or may not be.

Hip Hop Hangover Brunch happens the first Sunday of every month from 12-6 p.m., so even those afternoon, or early evening risers can still get their grease on.

Pair your meal with some gin and juice, a brass monkey, a quiet storm or Aunt Thelma's Ginger Beer and Sorrel Drink.

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The Notorious BLT is a BLT featuring waffles for bread and maple garlic mayo. TREVOR GREENWAY/FOR METRO

> **Hip hop has always been playing in the kitchen for me.**
> Chef Caroline "Chico" Cichelly

CYBER ATTACK

Ransom not paid: Carleton

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Carleton University continued to struggle Wednesday with the fallout of a cyber attack that locked up the university's computer network.

While the school said people could use the network again by Tuesday night, information technology staff spent Wednesday repairing the network and trying to restore the Carleton email network.

Around 4 p.m., the university confirmed that no personal information had been accessed and email was functioning normally. Students and staff who still couldn't use their computers were instructed to contact the service desk for help.

On Tuesday, staff and students were warned not to use the Windows-based computers on the network.

Some university computers were seeing ransomware messages demanding payment in bitcoin.

Ransomware is a malicious software that can hold access to the system — including personal files — "ransom" until a sum of money is paid. The demand is usually for thousands of dollars.

Carleton spokesperson Chris Cline confirmed Wednesday that Carleton did not pay any ransom money to restore the network.

Steven Reid, another spokesperson for the university, said the network has faced issues before, but nothing of this scale.

Carleton isn't the only victim of ransomware attacks. In June the University of Calgary was targeted and paid $20,000 to access its files.

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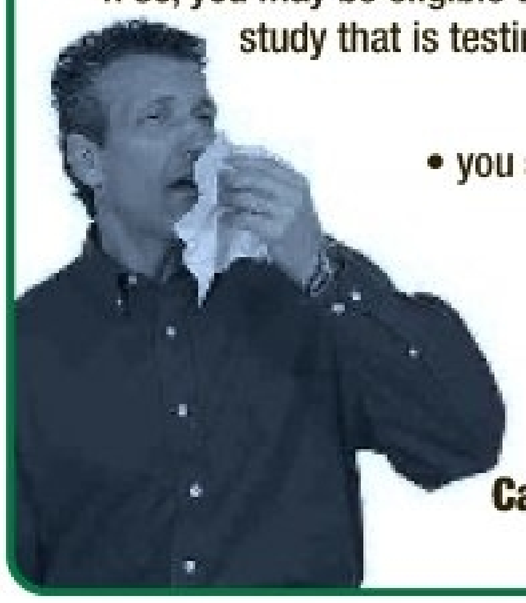

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Innovation goes mobile

MAKER MOBILE

Science and tech hub hitting road across Canada

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Science is about to hit the road as learning non-profit Actua begins a cross-Canada road trip to share technology with students from the back of a van.

"We wanted to do something really special for Canada's 150," said Jennifer Flanagan, president of the organization, which aims to get youth excited about science and technology. "We also wanted to get kids across the country really, really excited about innovation and understanding what it is and making that accessible. We landed on the idea of a cross-country tour."

Flanagan defines innovation not as a buzzword, but as "doing the right things better." The van will be spreading that message as it visits 80 cities and towns across the country, including the far north.

Flanagan added that the future is in good hands — in her experience, kids are natural creatives, coders and innovators.

The cube van is mobile and packed with tech goodies like 3D printers, laser cutters and programmable circuit boards. Earlier this year the University of Ottawa launched its own Maker Mobile that travels across Ottawa.

Flanagan said the programming is meant to complement classroom learning but will give students across the country access to new tools and technology to apply their learning.

The Scratch MaKey MaKey is one of the experiments students will have a chance to try inside the Maker Mobile.
HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

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HUNT CLUB

Residents roped in for park revamp

Though playtime at Paul Landry Park in the Hunt Club community is winding down with the arrival of winter temperatures, things are heating up behind the scenes.

Area residents are invited to drop in to shop for features they'd like to see added to the green space to reinvigorate it as a children's play area.

River Coun. Riley Brockington is hosting an open house on Dec. 14 that is designed to garner a community vision for a future play structure at the park, located along Uplands Drive south of Paul Anka Drive.

A similar consultation process was held last year to improve Owl Park, also in Hunt Club. Different options were presented on placards around the room and residents were able to browse for their favourite designs, leading to the revamped park that is now in place, the councillor said.

Local residents and the Hunt Club Community Organization have been advocating for change at Paul Landry Park, which they say is aging and requires a complete overhaul. Brockington agrees it is past its prime.

He secured $300,000, half of which is earmarked for Paul Landry Park, and the rest for a Carlington park in the west end of the ward.

But the funds weren't expected to be available until 2018, so Brockington secured an advance from another councillor's cash-in-lieu-of-parkland fund, which will be paid back in 2018.

Feedback from the upcoming consultation meeting will be reviewed and shared with residents and the association. Next steps would be a second round of consultation "so that we get the community buy-in and then give the green light to the planner to go ahead and procure and proceed," Brockington said.

The park revamp will be a 2017 project and the goal is to see it finished next year. Brockington said he doesn't know when construction will begin.

ERIN MCCRACKEN/METROLAND MEDIA

Paul Landry Park is in line for significant upgrades.
METROLAND FILE

DRUGS

Fentanyl deaths rise across the province

Fentanyl deaths are on the rise in Ontario, though the province's chief coroner says numbers there aren't as bleak as elsewhere in the country.

Fentanyl overdoses have made headlines in the past year as the deadly opioid has become more widely available.

Chief Coroner Dirk Huyer spoke from a training symposium held by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, where 450 front-line officers and border patrol agents will be trained in the health and public safety challenges posed by fentanyl.

Huyer says fentanyl deaths accounted for nearly 30 per cent of Ontario's fatal opioid overdoses in 2015.

But he says the drug isn't as pervasive in Ontario as it is in other provinces, like British Columbia.

In August, Vancouver police said they dealt with 16 fentanyl overdoses in one night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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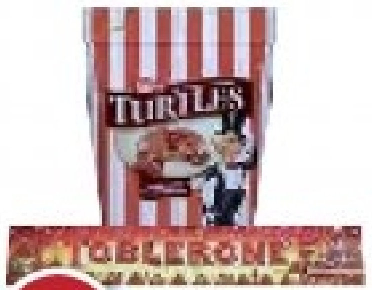

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ENVIRONMENT

Cap and trade to cost $8B in first years: Auditor

Ontario's cap-and-trade program will cost the province's consumers and businesses $8 billion dollars in its first years of operation to get minimal greenhouse gas reductions, the auditor general said Wednesday.

In her annual report, Bonnie Lysyk said households will pay an average of $156 next year in added costs on gasoline and natural gas, rising to $210 in 2019 plus another $75 that year in indirect costs on goods and services.

The government has also earmarked $1.32 billion out of the expected $8 billion in projected cap-and-trade revenue to help offset the cost of residential and business electricity bills, but it doesn't say how, Lysyk's report said. And the impact will likely be marginal, she said. Even with a subsidy, the average household electricity bill is projected to increase 23 per cent from 2015 to 2020, Lysyk found.

The carbon pricing scheme, set to come into effect Jan. 1, will likely achieve fewer than 20 per cent of the emission reductions the government wants to see by 2020, Lysyk said.

The Liberal government has set an emissions reduction target for that year of 15 per cent below 1990 levels, which would require an estimated 18.7 megatonnes of reductions.

But because the system, which requires polluters to buy emissions allowances, will link with Quebec and California in 2018 the government plans to count emission reductions achieved in those jurisdictions, Lysyk said.

Environment Minister Glen Murray defended the cap-and-trade plan, saying it is the best tool to both reduce greenhouse gas pollution and minimize the financial impact on families and businesses. The government currently regulates polluters through an Environmental Approvals program, but Lysyk found that about 80 per cent of emitters granted approvals in the last 15 years have never been inspected.

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Ontario Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Investigation highlights

AUDITOR GENERAL'S $ REPORT

Bonnie Lysyk releases government spending, stats

Highlights from Ontario's annual auditor general report:

- The government pays highway contractors about $8 million per year in bonuses for meeting a quality standard for asphalt, even in cases when it knows contractors tampered with asphalt samples just to get the bonuses.
- Road contractors continue to get work from the government even when they have performed unsatisfactory work or breached safety regulations.
- The government paid $23 million for repairs on five highway projects — in addition to an initial $143 million to pave them — after only one to three years, when the highways should have lasted 15 years.
- Ontario's cap-and-trade program will cost Ontario businesses and households about $8 billion between 2017 and 2020 and will likely generate less than 20 per cent of the government's target of emissions reductions.
- About 80 per cent of companies that have received emissions approvals in the last 15 years have never been inspected, and the government doesn't know how many emitters given approvals more than 15 years ago are still operating.
- Ontario is the only province that doesn't require environmental assessments for private-sector mining and chemical manufacturing projects. It will cost $1 billion to clean up just four such sites, the auditor found.
- Ontario's health-care sector spent $8 billion over the last 14 years to implement electronic health records, but the initiative still isn't complete, and it's impossible to say if the project is on budget because there wasn't an overall one.
- The number of children and youth hospitalized with mental-health problems has risen 50 per cent in the last seven years, but the government hasn't analyzed why or how to address it.
- The Ministry of Health didn't investigate billings for nine specialists who claimed to work more than 360 days in 2015-16, including six who billed for the full 366 days.
- A shortage in psychiatric care in Ontario led to the government spending nearly $10 million to send 127 youth to the United States for treatment.
- Many hospitals close operating rooms to all procedures except for emergency surgeries on evenings, weekends, statutory holidays, March break and for between two and 10 weeks during the summer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario Infrastructure Minister Bob Chiarelli looks on as Premier Kathleen Wynne speaks following a tour of Hydro Ottawa's control room on Sept. 16. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Report blasts poor spending controls

AUDITOR GENERAL'S $ REPORT

Shoddy road work, hospital wait times cited as issues

Ontario's government watchdog says taxpayers spend millions of dollars paying repair bills for shoddy work by contractors hired for road maintenance and public transit projects, including part of one bridge that was installed upside down.

Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk also warns of serious shortcomings in the health-care system, and predicts cap-and-trade will cost businesses and individuals $8 billion between 2017 and 2020 but won't meet the emissions reduction target.

In her annual report, Lysyk said pavement on some Ontario roads and highways that is supposed to last 10 to 15 years starts to crack after just two or three.

Contractors were "tampering with asphalt samples" so they could obtain part of the $8.8 million the ministry paid in bonuses to include the quality of asphalt they "are always expected to do anyway," added Lysyk.

The ministry agreed to a request from asphalt producers and cement suppliers to delay plans to implement a second aging test to identify asphalt that is likely to start breaking up before it should.

Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca said he was "not happy" to see the report, and promised an "extended aging" test for asphalt would be included in all road maintenance contracts by next year. But Del Duca wasn't pinning as much of the blame on shoddy work as the auditor general did.

Lysyk's report also takes the Liberals to task for growing wait times in emergency rooms, and said waits for elective surgeries at Ontario's largest hospitals have not improved in five years, but surgical suites are sitting empty a lot of the time.

The auditor also found the Ministry of Health does not investigate inappropriate or anomalous billings by doctors even though it spends $11.6 billion a year for physician compensation. Nine specialists claimed to work over 360 days in fiscal 2015/16, with six of them billing for the full 366 days.

Health Minister Eric Hoskins said the government was trying to get back the money over billed by some doctors.

The report also notes that Ontario's health-care sector spent $8 billion over the last 14 years to implement electronic health records but still hasn't created them for everyone.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ads would be too partisan to run under previous rules

Ontario's auditor general says taxpayers have footed the bill for millions of dollars in government advertising that is actually partisan.

Bonnie Lysyk warned last year that changes the government made to advertising rules could see her office reduced to a rubber stamp for ads even if she feels they're partisan.

The old rules banned ads as partisan if the intent was to foster a positive impression of government or a negative impression of its critics, but the new rules say an ad is partisan only if it uses an elected member's picture, name or voice, the colour or logo associated with the political party or direct criticism of a party or member of the legislature.

Lysyk lists in her annual report several government ads that she would have flagged under the old rules as misleading or self-congratulatory, as opposed to giving the public information.

The government spent $8.1 million advertising the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan, which was scrapped after an agreement to enhance the Canada Pension Plan, and Lysyk says she would have rejected some of those ads under the old rules.

Nearly $3 million was spent on a series of ad campaigns about the environment that Lysyk says could be seen as self-congratulatory or misleading.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tunney's Pasture was rejected as a campus site by the Ottawa Hospital Board. CITY OF OTTAWA

Feds told to weigh in on Civic campus

DEVELOPMENT

Ottawa Hospital board rejects chosen site

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa South MPP John Fraser said the federal government needs to sit down directly with the Ottawa Hospital board to settle where the new Civic campus will be built.

Fraser, along with five other Ottawa MPPs, signed a statement Tuesday backing the hospital board's decision to reject the Tunney's Pasture site, which has been offered by the National Capital Commission.

The Tunney's Pasture site came as a surprise recommendation from the NCC, which was asked to review 12 potential sites for the new Civic site from available federal land.

Fraser said there are serious issues with access and increased costs at Tunney's, and he doesn't believe the NCC fully considered the city's needs.

"I was disappointed at how tone deaf the NCC was to the needs of the community."

The Tunney's Pasture site is now home to many surface parking lots and a number of office buildings that would need to be demolished. Fraser said that would add costs, but could also slow things down. "There is a real risk of delay and that is a real challenge for the health-care needs in the city," he said.

Fraser said he believes there is space on the Central Experimental Farm that would allow a hospital to be built with minimal impact.

"There is a way to ... protect sensitive agricultural land on the farm, but utilize some land on the farm to build a new hospital."

He said he is indifferent to whether the NCC stays involved in the decision, but he believes the federal government has to take a direct role. "The federal government can decide who they want at the table, but they need to be at the table."

Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly, who oversees the NCC, told reporters she had to review the commission's recommendations before making any decisions.

"I'll be receiving shortly the report from the NCC. I need to take a good look at it, understand the criterias," she said. "And ultimately, I will also look at the reaction of the population towards the site and take a sound decision based on all this important analysis."

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna, the local MP, was in Washington on Wednesday and unavailable for interviews, but said she was ready to work on the issue.

PHILANTHROPY

Private donation of $1.5M to fund expansion of art gallery

The Ottawa Art Gallery says it received its largest private donation to date for its expansion project Tuesday evening after John and Jennifer Ruddy contributed $1.5 million from their Trinity Development Foundation.

John Ruddy is the founder and executive chairperson of Trinity Development Group, which has developed more than 20 million square feet of retail space across Canada. He's also a noted philanthropist and partner in the Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group, which led the redevelopment of Lansdowne Park and owns the Ottawa RedBlacks, Ottawa 67's and Ottawa Fury.

"We believe that the arts are an important aspect of any thriving community and we are proud to have a hand in helping to keep the Ottawa Art Gallery active and vibrant for years to come," Ruddy said in a statement.

Some $5.1 million has been raised for the new Ottawa Art Gallery, which is under construction at 50 Mackenzie King Bridge, next to its current location within Arts Court.

The new 80,000-square-foot facility will include galleries for permanent and changing exhibitions, a workshop studio and a cafe, among other features.

It's scheduled to open next fall. The $100-million redevelopment of Arts Court also includes a mixed-use residential complex and a boutique hotel by Group Germain Hotels.

OTTAWA BUSINESS JOURNAL

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Pipeline voices

A day after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced cabinet approval of the Trans Mountain pipeline, we talk to Albertans on the ground about the decision. **METRO**

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the approval this week of two major oil pipeline expansions, insisting all the while that the new fossil fuel infrastructure fits within his Liberal government's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Environmental advocates immediately called the approvals a betrayal, but a series of government climate policy moves this year suggest Canada's emissions should come down - although whether it will be enough to meet the country's 2030 climate commitment is another matter.

Trudeau sits down next week with provincial and territorial premiers to complete a pan-Canadian climate strategy that's supposed to put the country on a downward emissions trajectory to its 2030 Paris emissions target. The government has promised the United Nations that Canada will cut emissions 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

I feel like Alberta made a huge strategic error in wasting so much time talking and pushing for pipelines, a resource that the world needs to move away from and the world committed to moving away from.

Mike Hudema, Greenpeace Canada spokesperson

It is noteworthy that Premier Notley had nothing to say about First Nations approval or inclusion in the process ... We're willing to work to ensure success for Alberta, but there's still lots of hard work and consultation needed.

Joseph Jobin, Chief Operating Officer, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

I think what happened is good. It would've been nice to get all three (pipelines), but I think the government has to make everybody happy, so he made the oilpatch happy by approving the two and made the other people happy by not approving one.

Stan Gervais, oilpatch worker

This is a defining moment for our project and Canada's energy industry.

Ian Anderson, president, Kinder Morgan, Calgary

COURTS

Judge Camp should go: Committee

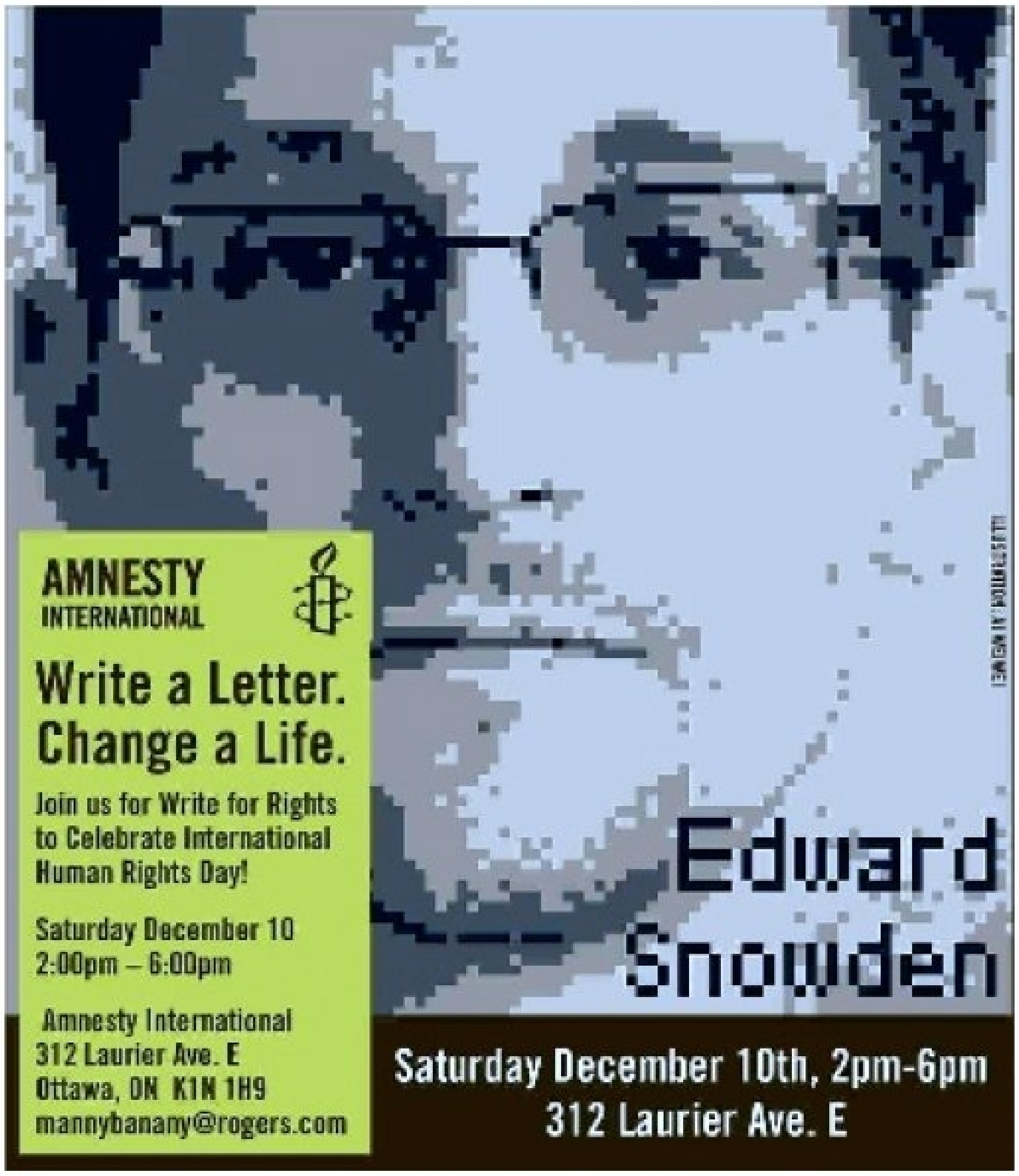
A Canadian Judicial Council committee says a judge's apology for asking a sexual assault complainant why she couldn't keep her knees together doesn't offset the damage done and Robin Camp should lose his job.

"We conclude that Justice Camp's conduct is so manifestly and profoundly destructive of the concept of the impartiality, integrity and independence of the judicial role that public confidence is sufficiently undermined to render the judge incapable of executing the judicial office," the five-member panel wrote in a unanimous decision released Wednesday.

Court transcripts show Camp called the complainant, an indigenous woman who was 19 years old and homeless at the time of the alleged assault, "the accused" throughout the trial - a phrase he repeated during a September judicial council disciplinary hearing before quickly correcting himself.

He also told the young woman "pain and sex sometimes go together."

THE CANADIAN PRESS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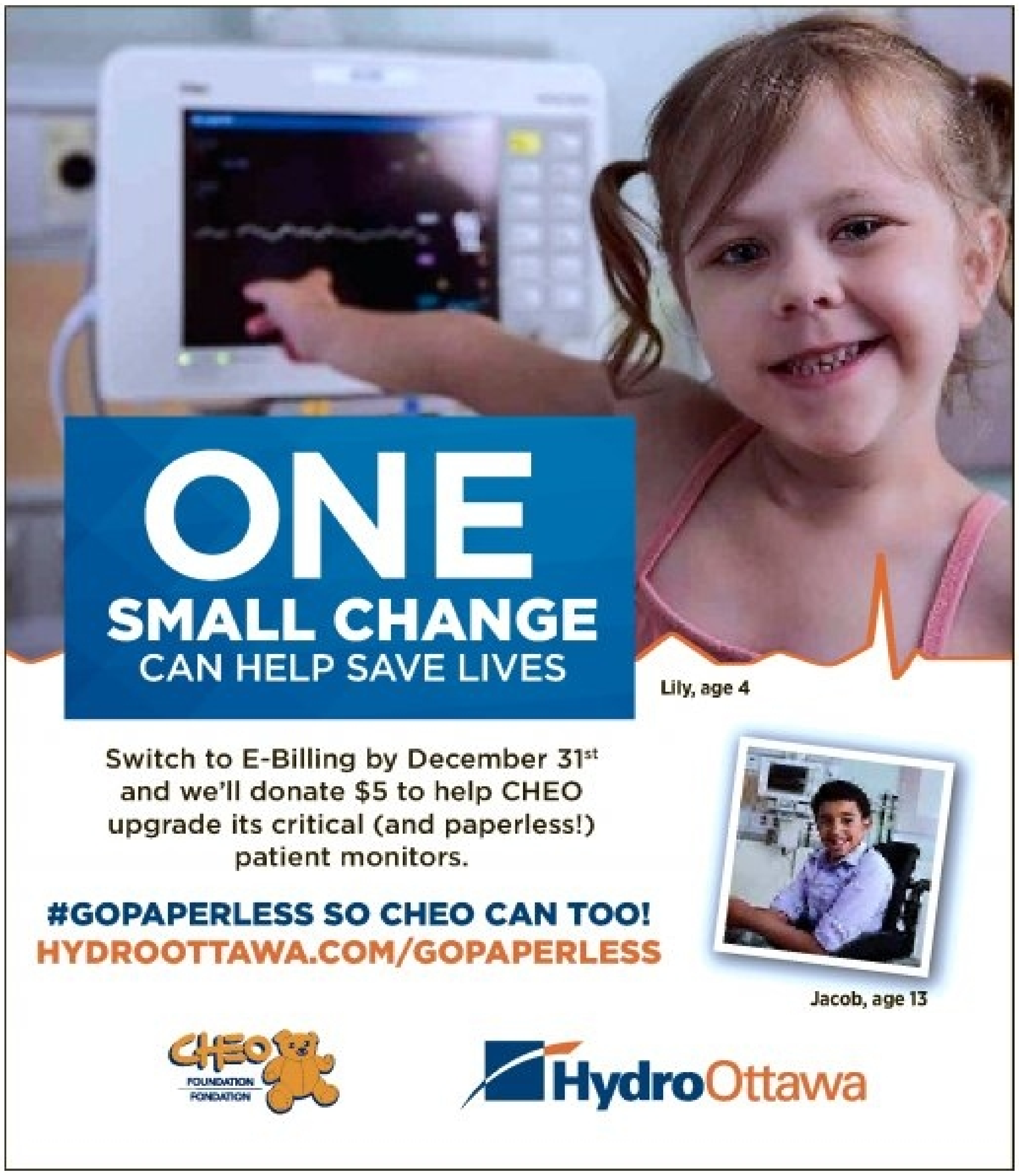
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Lily, age 4

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Jacob, age 13

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Children hold a photograph of former Cuban President Fidel Castro as they wait for the caravan transporting his remains to pass on its journey to Santiago de Cuba. GETTY IMAGES

Cubans line up to bid leader farewell

MOURNING

Fidel Castro makes his final journey through nation

To waving flags and some shouts of "Long may he live!" Fidel Castro's ashes began a four-day journey across the island Wednesday, retracing the path of his triumphant march into Havana nearly six decades ago.

A small, Cuban-flag covered cedar coffin containing the remains of the 90-year-old leader was taken out of Cuba's Defence Ministry just after 7 a.m. and placed into a flower-bedecked trailer pulled by a green military jeep for the more than 500-mile (800-kilometre) procession to his final resting place in the eastern city of Santiago. The ashes will be interred Sunday, ending the nine-day mourning period for the man who ruled the country for nearly 50 years.

The route traces in reverse the victory tour Castro and his bearded rebels took after overthrowing the forces of strongman Fulgencio Batista in 1959.

Outside Havana, the caravan will pass through rural communities significantly changed by social and economic reforms he adopted. Many residents now have access to health care and education. But many of those towns are also in a prolonged economic collapse, the country's once-dominant sugar industry decimated, the sugar mills and plantations gone.

Thousands of Cubans lined the streets of Havana, some sleeping on sidewalks overnight, to bid goodbye to Castro. Many had attended a massive rally Tuesday night at Havana's Revolution Plaza, where the presidents of Cuba, Mexico, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela and South Africa, along with leaders of a host of smaller nations, offered speeches paying tribute to Castro, who died Friday night.

The crowds at the rally and along Wednesday's procession route were a mix of people attending on their own and groups of Cubans organized by government workplaces, where attendance was not strictly obligatory but with strong pressure to attend. Some groups of government workers slept on the streets because all public transport had been commandeered to move people to Castro-related activities.

Along the city's historic Malecon, the funeral procession passed to near-total silence among the crowd. Peering from the sidewalk, rooftops and balconies overlooking the sea, people took cellphone video and photos as keepsakes.

Tuesday's rally began with black-and-white revolution-era footage of Castro and other guerrillas on a big screen and the playing of the Cuban national anthem. Castro's younger brother and successor, Raul, closed the rally with a speech thanking world leaders for their words of praise for his brother, whom he called the leader of a revolution "for the humble, and by the humble." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thief snags gold in broad daylight

Rebecca Chiu
Metro | Toronto

He walks pretty quickly for someone carrying 86 pounds — perhaps because the content of the bucket is worth $1.6 million.

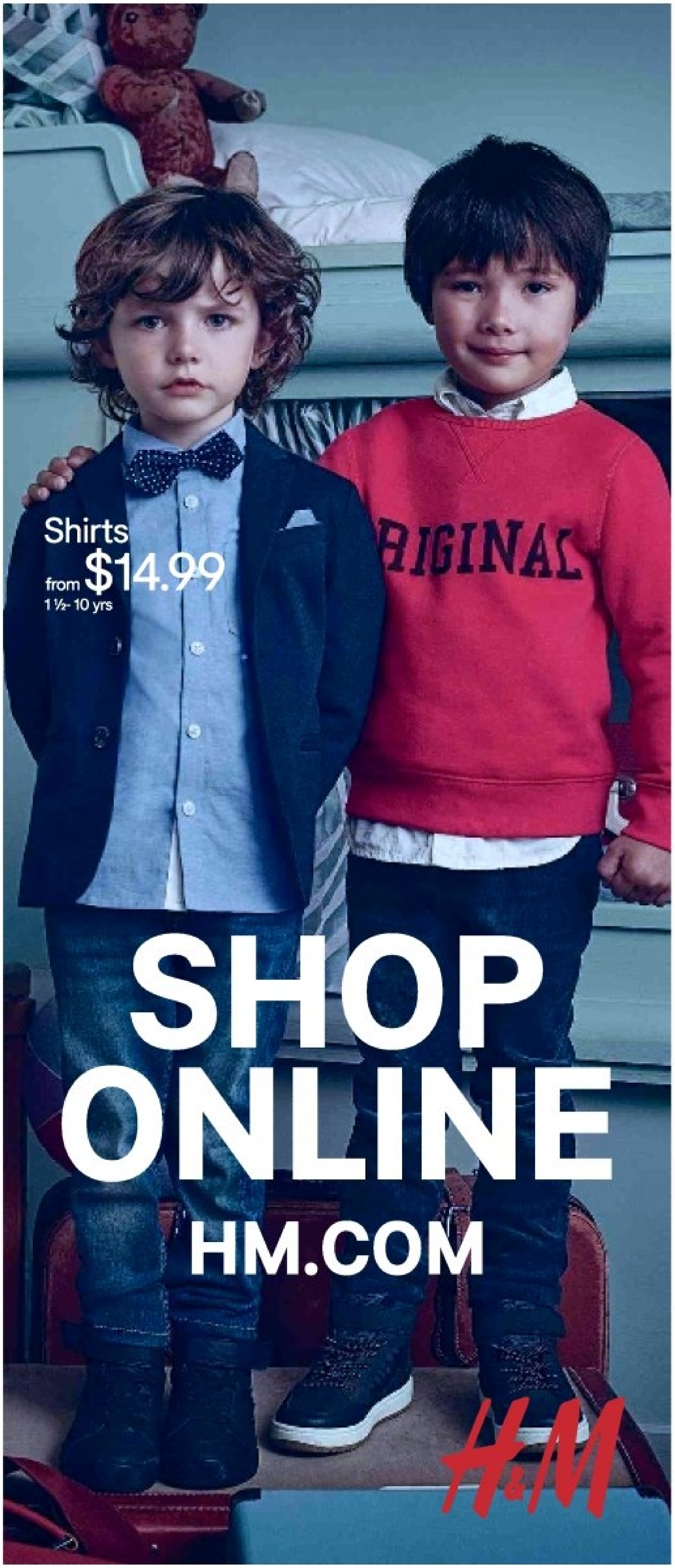
New York police released surveillance video from Sept. 29, showing a man milling about an armoured truck in Midtown Manhattan before grabbing a bucket off the back of the vehicle and scurrying away.

All the while, two men are sitting in the truck's cab, unaware they just got robbed. Police say they don't believe the man knew the contents of the bucket, but that he probably knew there was a chance it had value.

"I think he just saw an opportunity, took the pail and walked off," NYPD Det. Martin Pastor told WNBC-TV. Police are searching for the suspect, who they believe is now in Florida.

VIDEO ON THE METRO APP

NYPD are searching for a man who stole a bucket full of $1.6 million in gold. NYPD



Tump leaves businesses

POLITICS

President-elect walks away from empire to focus on presidency

President-elect Donald Trump declared Wednesday he will leave his business empire behind to focus on his presidency. But the prospect that he could simply shift more control to three of his adult children looked too cozy to some business-ethics specialists who suggest the arrangement could bring unprecedented conflicts of interest into the Oval Office.

Trump announced in a series of early morning tweets that he would leave his "great business," adding: "While I am not mandated to do this under the law, I feel it is visually important, as president, to in no way have a conflict of interest with my various businesses."

Trump provided no details, though he said legal documents were being prepared. He previously had said he'd leave his business operations to his three eldest children - Donald Jr., Eric and Ivanka.

Asked if the tweets indicated plans to move the businesses to the children, Trump senior adviser Kellyanne Conway said Wednesday, "it appears that way."

"The three adult children who do already work in the corporation are expected to continue in those roles and in fact increase their responsibilities in those roles," Conway said.

Ethics experts have pushed for Trump to fully exit the ownership of his businesses using a blind trust or equivalent arrangement.

The laws are generally loose for presidents regarding their businesses except when it comes to ties to or gifts from foreign governments.

Trump spent much of Wednesday conducting meetings in his Manhattan high-rise. His pick for secretary of state remains up in the air, though aides say he has narrowed his choices to four.

One contender, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney dined with him. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MORE PHOTOS ON THE METRO APP

CELEBRATING THE OBAMAS' LAST CHRISTMAS This year's White House Gingerbread House in the State Dining Room of the White House during a preview of the holiday decor at the White House. The gingerbread house features 150 pounds of gingerbread on the inside, 100 pounds of bread dough on the outside, 20 pounds of gum paste, 20 pounds of icing, and 20 pounds of sculpted sugar pieces. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

First Lady Michelle Obama speaks to military families in the East Room of the White House during a preview of the 2016 holiday decor. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Larger than life replicas of Bo and Sunny, made of more than 25,000 yarn pom-poms. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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FW-44: METRO TORONTO, OTTAWA, VANCOUVER, CALGARY, EDMONTON

Cartel agrees to cut crude production

OIL

Decision is a departure from years of infighting

Breaking with years of inaction, OPEC agreed Wednesday to cut its oil output for the first time since 2008. The move effectively scraps its strategy of squeezing U.S. competition through high supply that had backfired by lowering prices and draining the cartel's own economies.

The reduction of 1.2 million barrels a day is significant, leaving OPEC's daily output at 32.5 million barrels. And OPEC President Mohammed Bin Saleh Al-Sada said non-OPEC nations are expected to pare an additional 600,000 barrels a day off their production.

The combined cut will result, at least in the short term, in somewhat more pricey oil — and, by extension, car fuel, heating and electricity. The international benchmark for crude jumped 8.3 per cent, or $3.86 US, to $50.24 US on Wednesday.

In the longer term, however, analysts say it's highly unlikely that oil will return to the highs of around $100 US a barrel last seen two years ago. That's partly due to the fact that President-elect Donald Trump has promised to free up more oil drilling in the U.S., which would increase global supply. Demand is also not recovering as the world economy sags.

Al-Sada said the OPEC cutback is to take effect Jan. 1, with consultations planned on the exact timing of the non-OPEC reductions.

Russia alone is committed to taking 300,000 barrels a day off the market.

Wednesday's decision was a departure from years of infighting among members refusing to give up their market share. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Members of OPEC attend a meeting at OPEC headquarters in Vienna, Austria on Wednesday. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

HOUSING

Foreign ownership of condos drops

A report by CMHC says foreign ownership of condominiums in some of Canada's largest cities has moved lower compared with last year.

Foreign ownership was the highest in Vancouver and Toronto at 2.2 per cent and 2.3 per cent, respectively. However, that was down from 3.5 per cent in Vancouver and 3.3 per cent in Toronto in 2015.

CMHC said the relatively higher shares in Vancouver and Toronto in 2015 were due to an unusually high proportion of foreign ownership in newly constructed condominiums.

BY THE NUMBERS

2.2 per cent

Vancouver, down from 3.5%

2.3 per cent

Toronto, down from 3.3%

Foreign ownership of condos in Montreal slipped to 1.1 per cent from 1.3 per cent a year ago.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

CANADIAN RAILWAYS

CP Rail, CN Rail positive about a Trump presidency
Canada's two largest railways told a transportation conference they're not worried about a Donald Trump presidency. CP Rail president Keith Creel said Trump's attention in threatening changes to the North American Free Trade Agreement is targeted mainly at Mexico. And Trump's $1-trillion US infrastructure program would increase demand for Canadian raw materials. Ghislain Houle, chief financial officer of CN Rail, was similarly positive but was concerned quotas on softwood lumber exports would hurt the railway.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, December 1, 2016

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON THE APPROVED PIPELINES

Trudeau's announcement is unlikely to win him supporters within the ranks of those who most support the pipeline agenda. They tend to be spoken for by the Conservative party.

It is a rare government decision that involves a lot of predictable political pain for little obvious electoral gain. For better or for worse, the approval by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of the controversial Trans Mountain pipeline falls in that category.

It is unlikely to win him supporters within the ranks of those who most support the pipeline agenda. They tend to be spoken for by the Conservative party and, for the most part, have no appetite for Trudeau's proactive climate change agenda.

On the other hand, at least some of the seats of the 17 Liberal MPs elected in B.C. in the last election could be on the line. The approval of this pipeline plan will not sit well with many of the constituents. Even if he wanted to, Trudeau could not get all his caucus members to sing the same song on this issue. A handful of them have already broken ranks with his decision.

The Liberals are not the only ones potentially at risk on what is probably Canada's most contentious front these days.

Take British Columbia Premier Christy Clark. She will be campaigning for re-election in the spring. If she supports Trudeau's move, it will be her provincial Liberals who will first test the post-announcement waters. She could be in for a choppy crossing.

There is no way Trudeau could have killed two pipelines to the Pacific coast and then backed the no less controversial Energy East project.

There is a widespread expectation on Parliament Hill that Clark will at some point publicly sign off on the Trans Mountain project.

PIPELINE PALS Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Alberta Premier Rachel Notley speak on Parliament Hill, Tuesday.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

The federal government has been playing nice with its B.C. counterpart, delivering a much wanted green light for a major liquefied gas development and promising billions of federal dollars to improve marine safety.

But Clark would not be the political survivor that she is if she did not have a well-honed instinct for self-preservation. B.C. elections are won or lost in the greater Vancouver area, the site of the pipeline whose capacity to carry bitumen oil to the coast Kinder Morgan plans to expand.

On Wednesday, she said Trudeau was close to meeting all of her conditions for supporting the pipeline. She invited the prime minister to come to B.C. to sell the decision. By all indications, she wants to see how it all plays out before taking a definitive stance.

Then there is the NDP. While Alberta Premier Rachel Notley was celebrating a big win alongside Trudeau on Tuesday, Thomas Mulcair was calling the federal decision a betrayal of the trust many B.C. voters placed in the prime minister. The provincial New Democrats are also critical of the federal decision.

The cracks between the ruling NDP in Edmonton and their opposition cousins in Parliament and in Victoria are becoming too wide to be papered over. Whoever succeeds Mulcair will be hard-pressed to square the pipeline circle.

In any event, as of now Trudeau and Notley are joined at the hip. On Tuesday, the prime minister argued it was the premier's determination to rein in Alberta's carbon emissions that made his approval of a pipeline consistent with Canada's climate change commitments.

But if she fails to win re-election the quid pro quo is unlikely to survive her NDP government, leaving Trudeau with little to show on climate change for having delivered a pipeline from tidewater to Alberta.

Had the prime minister vetoed the Kinder Morgan project, he might as well have declared a moratorium on any plan to bring more of Alberta's bitumen oil to the Canadian coasts.

There is no way Trudeau could have killed two pipelines to the Pacific coast (Northern Gateway and Trans Mountain) and then backed the no less controversial Energy East project. (Punting the decision on the Vancouver area pipeline would most likely only have hardened opposition to the plan.)

That being said, it might be prudent for TransCanada — the company behind the plan to link the oilfields to the Atlantic Coast through the Prairies and Central Canada — to not take this week's federal yes to Kinder Morgan as a sign that its pipeline will be good to go any time soon, if at all.

A betting person might reasonably wager that Trudeau will not want to open another front in the pipeline wars between now and the 2019 election. And that probably makes Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard, who could be facing an uphill re-election battle in less than two years, a collateral winner of this week's developments.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro on Thursdays.

VICKY MOCHAMA

Gilmores' girl-on-girl banter sounds suspiciously like life

When Gilmore Girls premiered 16 years ago, it was unique — a female-centric show that stayed focused on women — but the data shows that with its return to Netflix, it is still an anomaly.

Gilmore Girls can do no wrong. In my heart, it already has five stars (I rate on a four star system.) It would be like Netflix putting out a show called Your Mom, featuring only video clips of my mother. Even when she's not perfect, she's perfect to me.

So instead of quality or plot, I'm watching for validation.

This isn't to set the bar low for the revival. With a cast including Melissa McCarthy, Kelly Bishop, and Edward Herrmann there were many Emmy-worth episodes in the original run. Exhibit A: In a Season 1 episode, Rory (Alexis Bledel) returns home in the early morning after a date. On finding out, Lauren Graham's Lorelai veers from panicking to castigating her mother to fighting with her daughter. Within a five-minute span, she hits every single note perfectly.

Notably, that scene like countless others in the Gilmore Girls' canon, is focused on women's relationships with each other. This was a show entirely about women's lives apart from men. (Occasionally, the plot centres on a man but, despite our best efforts, that happens in women's lives too.)

In writing women's lives, film and television consistently fail. Take the Disney princess films. You'd think that women clearly dominate the dialogue in movies about them. Turns out that even in fictional cartoon worlds, men routinely talk over women.

Researchers found that in the original three princess films — Snow White, Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella — female characters speak as much or more than male characters but that in the films of the 1990s, male voices dominate the dialogue: they speak 76 per cent of the time in Pocahontas, 68 per cent in The Little Mermaid, and 71 per cent in Beauty and the Beast. In the newer films like Tangled, Brave and Frozen, males still get the majority of talk time.

An exhaustive study from Polygraph confirmed the trend. Looking at screenplays for 2000 films, the team found that men over-indexed in speaking roles across every genre of film and age of actor. Even romantic comedy had men speaking 58 per cent of the lines. Polygraph also found that women actors over 42 experienced a sudden drop in assigned dialogue and that by age 65, they were virtually mute. Conversely, as men aged, they were given more speaking roles.

From a bird's-eye view, then, it's easy to see why the revival has caught the attention of so many women. We're starving to hear women's voices, even if they're the same ones we've heard before.

So not only is it great to hear the Gilmore women talk again but in the dim landscape of television and film, it's nice to hear any women talk at all.

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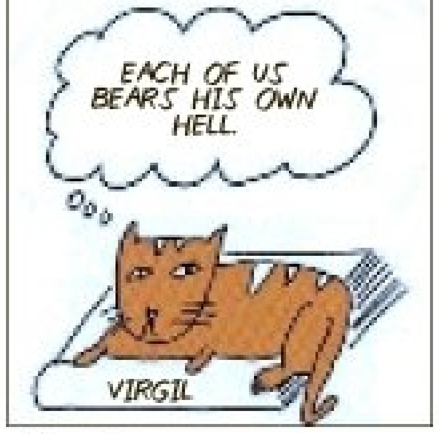
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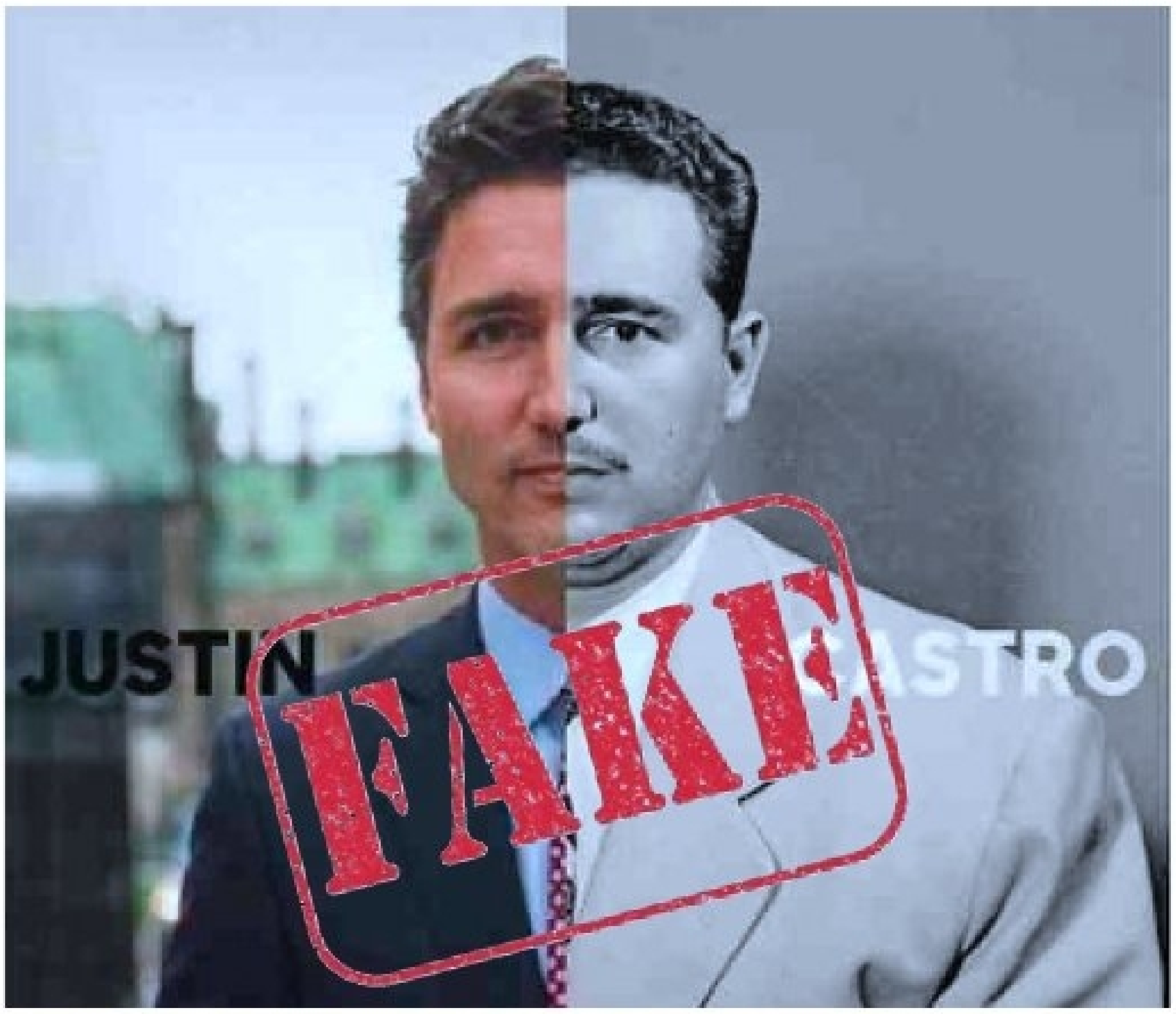
A guide to spotting fake news

SOCIAL MEDIA

Librarians give tools to catch manipulative stories online

May Warren
Metro | Toronto



A tweet by @TrumpaholicMAGA claimed "they sure look alike," and the user shared this image of Trudeau and Castro. Fake news stories easily gain momentum online. ILLUSTRATION BY METRO; PHOTO VIA @TRUMPAHOLICMAGA

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is Fidel Castro's long-lost illegitimate son.

It's the latest example of a totally made-up, 100 per cent false news story, one that was circulating on Facebook after the Cuban leader's recent death.

To help weed out such bogus news, which proliferated during the U.S. election and generated big ad dollars for creators, librarians at the University of Toronto have developed a handy cheat sheet.

Student engagement librarian Heather Buchansky said it's about giving readers the tools to spot fake stories and the guide is a "reminder to be more critical" as more and more people turn to sites like Facebook for information.

"It's quite easy to fall prey when you look at a website and you're thinking ok, well if it's online it must be true," she said.

Gavin Adamson, a journalism professor at Ryerson University, urges people to click around a bit before sharing articles on social media. When news sources don't have a lot of other content it's a clue that stories may be fake.

"These websites don't stand up to a lot of due diligence. If you just take a moment after recognizing you're probably being manipulated it's very easy to tear these things down," he said.

For Jeffrey Dvorkin, lecturer and director of the journalism program at the University of Toronto Scarborough, fake news is not a new problem, but that doesn't mean it shouldn't be taken seriously.

"The problem with the digital culture is that it is really the Wild West of information," he said.

"We shouldn't freak out and figure the sky is falling, although the clouds are a bit lower than they use to be."

Given the "tsunami" of content available online, people are driven towards sources where they feel more comfortable that often just confirm their own biases, he said.

Both Google and Facebook have been under fire for allowing fake news, and recently announced they will take measures to curb sham stories.

Closer to home, Buchansky said they've had a good response to the guide, posted Friday, and shared by librarians on social media.

"It hasn't spread as far as fake news itself," she said.

"But it's been positive."

CHEAT SHEET

Top ways to spot lies on the internet

With so much content out there it can be easy to be duped. Here's how to avoid accidentally spamming your friends:

❶ Look at the domain name. When sites end in unusual ways, such as ".com.co," it's a clue they may be fake.

❷ Check out the source a little more carefully. If you've never heard of a website look at the "About Us" section for more info, or explore it more to see how much other content there is.

❸ Google the headline to see how other news sources are reporting the story. Are there any other accounts? How have other outlets reported it?

❹ The use of ALL CAPS, and very poor web design are clues you're not looking at a reliable source.

❺ Does the article make you incredibly angry or outraged? Good journalism can also evoke emotion but if something is trying to make you mad on purpose to share the story and get ad revenue, it's a red flag.

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Old soul with an eye on the future

MEMOIR

Rajiv Surendra on heartbreak, big dreams and trying to swim

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

When Rajiv Surendra was only 12 years old — well before he was cast as the rapping mathlete Kevin Gnapoor in Tina Fey's cult comedy Mean Girls starring Lindsay Lohan — he took up calligraphy while working as a costumed interpreter at Toronto's Black Creek Pioneer Village.

It's an unusual hobby for a young boy, but Surendra has always been something of an old soul. It took years to perfect the craft, which he has now turned into a career.

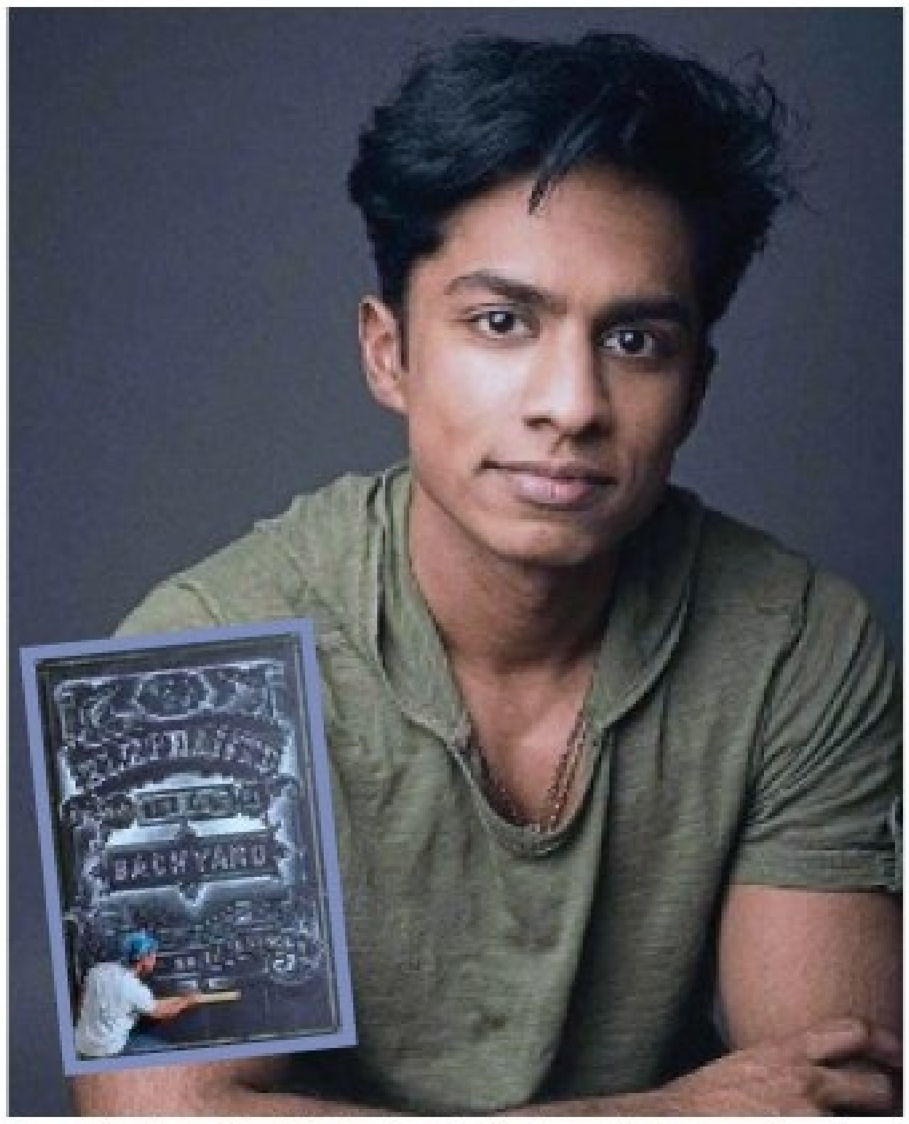
Surendra's obsessive nature and unwillingness to settle also led him on the biggest journey of his life, trying to snag the lead role in the film adaptation of Yann Martel's novel The Life of Pi. His failed quest is at the heart of his memoir, The Elephants in My Backyard, which he refers to as "the Eat, Pray, Love for the millennial generation."

After Surendra discovered eerie similarities between him and Martel's protagonist, he travelled to India for several months to immerse in the culture. "On the horrible, horrible days when I was so scared in the water and I was hyperventilating and my muscles were seizing, I would tell myself that even if you don't get this part, all the work and struggling will be worth it because you will know how to swim," he says.

When director Ang Lee eventually cast unknown Indian actor Suraj Sharma in the part, Surendra was devastated. Eventually Surendra came back to Toronto, and picked up his pen again.

"The reason why I was motivated to write this story down is because I learned so much."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.


THE ELEPHANTS IN MY BACKYARD

Surendra describes his book, The Elephants in My Backyard, as "the Eat, Pray, Love for the millennial generation." CONTRIBUTED

JOHANNA SCHNELLER
WHAT I'M WATCHING

Witty, wry, even sad, Fleabag a sensation

THE SHOW: **Fleabag, Season 1, Episode 1 (Amazon Prime)**
THE MOMENT: **Dissing the ex**

Fleabag (Phoebe Waller-Bridge, who created and writes the show) has just met a buck-toothed man on a bus (Jamie Demetriou). He asks how her ex was fool enough to let her go.

"He was just really kind and supportive," she says. "He'd cook all the time, run baths. Laugh at my jokes. He was great with my family. Plus he was really f—ing affectionate."

She's serious, but Bus Rodent doesn't get it. "Yeah, he sounds like a dickhead," he says.

She gives him her number. "I'll be sure to treat you like a nasty little bitch," he says. She grins into the camera at us.

"Um, that was a joke," he says.

"Oh, I know," she trills. But to us, she frowns.

In this six-part series, Waller-Bridge's sharp-tongued, but secretly self-loathing, Londoner (we never learn her real name) frequently breaks the fourth wall, talking directly to the viewer in the middle of a scene. It's like watching your best friend's home movies while she whispers the real, raunchier story in your ear.

She obsesses about sex, "the performance of it. The awkwardness." She kills time in the failing café she opened with her best pal Boo (Jenny Rainsford). She laments to her uptight sister Claire (Sian Clifford) that her farts now sound like their mum's.

You can see why the show is a sensation. Waller-Bridge is witty and wry and then suddenly sad. Though by the end you may feel that a piece of her soul is still missing, you'd happily come back for more.

Phoebe Waller-Bridge frequently breaks the fourth wall and talks directly to the viewers in Fleabag. CONTRIBUTED

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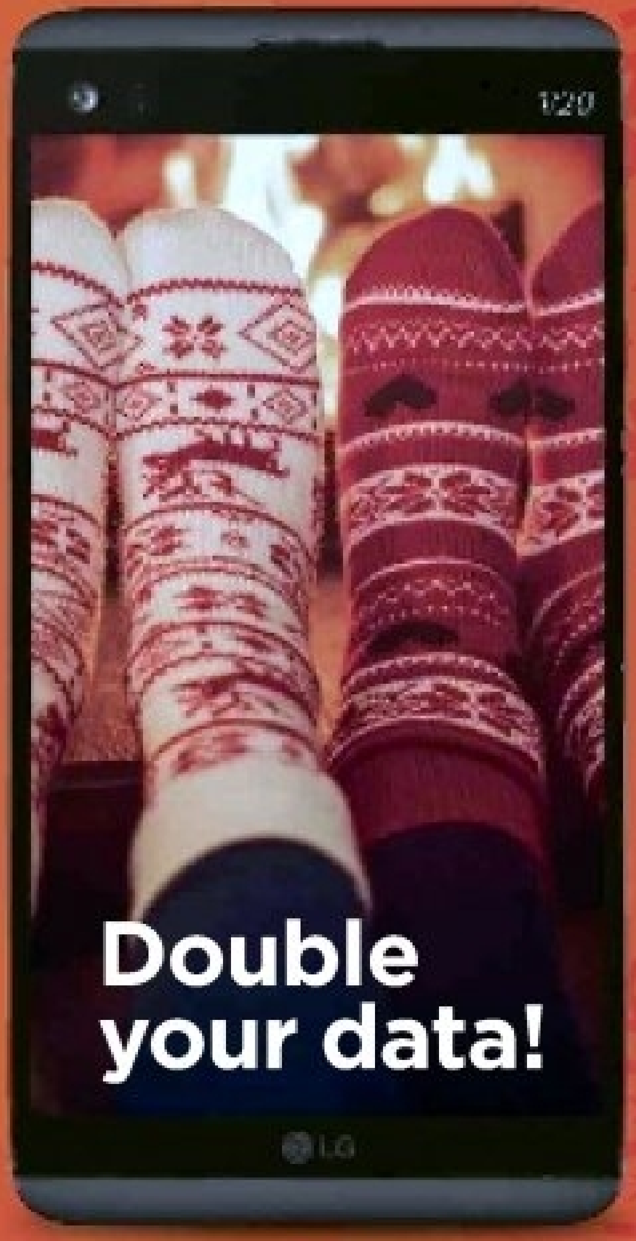


The chaotic history of The Stooges

BIOGRAPHY

Frontman Iggy Pop astounds writer with rich memory

Gilles LeBlanc
For Metro Canada

What began innocently as Iggy Pop reminiscing over items from his past with memorabilia collector Jeff Gold turned into the definitive oral history about one of the most influential rock bands ever.

Total Chaos: The Story of The Stooges/As Told by Iggy Pop, out this week via Third Man Books revisits in explicit, expletive detail how these Michigan misfits were unappreciated, commercial failures during their initial run from 1967-1974. Their legend as punk pioneers, however, grew exponentially in the three decades that followed.

The Stooges reunited in 2003 at the Coachella Music Festival, were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and continued to experience an unexpected renaissance that has dovetailed into Iggy Pop enjoying his most successful year to date.

"We were completely unprepared for how much (Iggy) remembered," Gold said prior to a book launch event with Pop in New York City. The habitually shirtless vocalist has had a long-standing reputation for drug use. "I was astounded at the breadth of his recall," which put the collector-turned-author at times in a "bizarre situation of having to cut him off periodically. You knew this wasn't a guy making it up, that he actually did remember all of this."

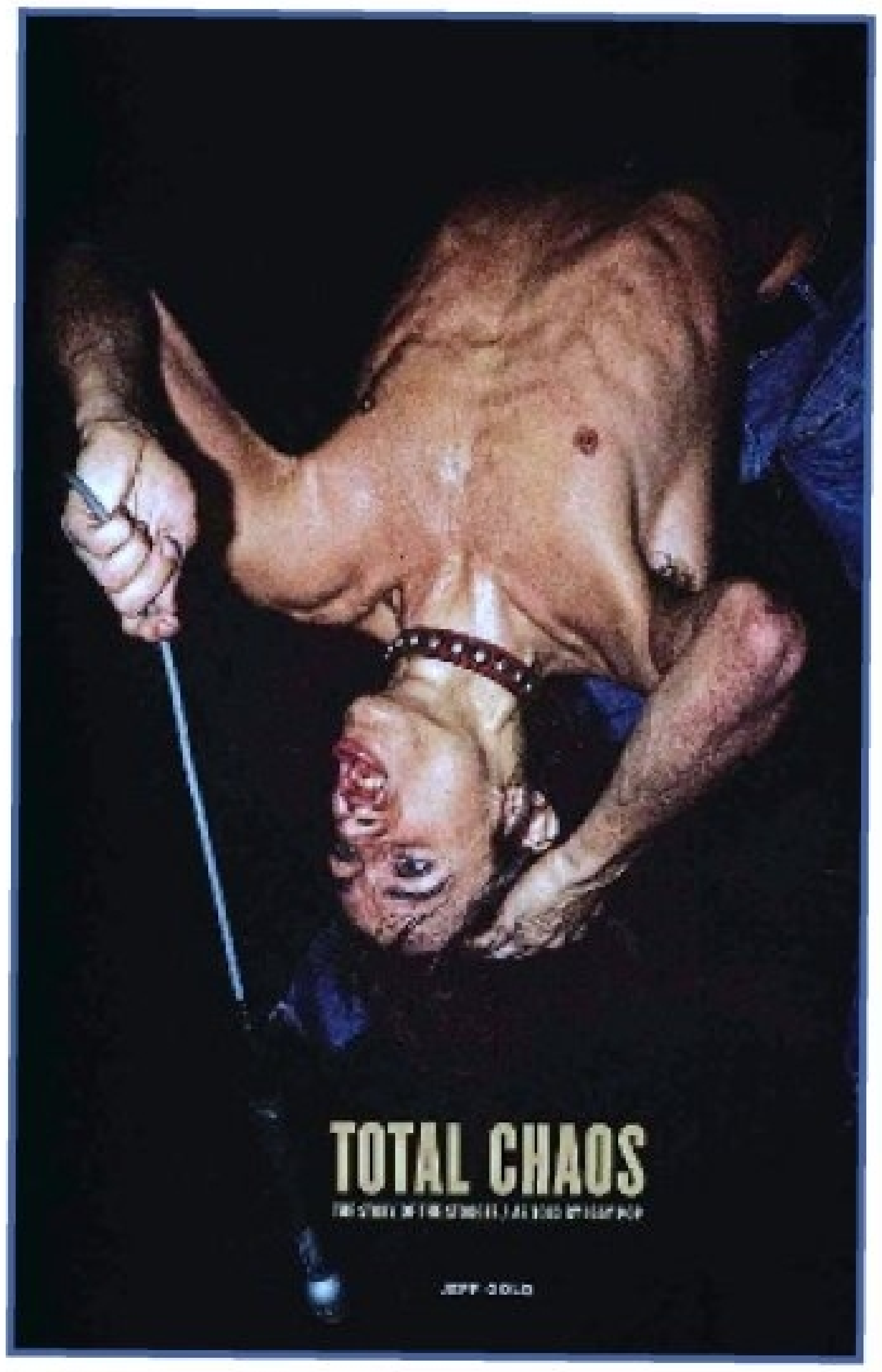
Gold modestly sees himself not so much as a writer, but more of a wrangler. "I had this incredible interview, I had these incredible pictures. (Total Chaos) went from being interesting to being important history. I felt like I had an obligation to history to get this right." Well yeehaw to that!

As for Third Man Books, the imprint offshoot of Motor City-raised rocker Jack White, Gold said he already had a publisher for what would eventually come to be Total Chaos, but "was just absolutely blown away at how (Third Man) have reinvented the record business" with everything they've got going on in Nashville and now Detroit's Cass Corridor. "It was just so natural" for them to be home to his Stooges book. Limited Editions from Third Man will not only have Iggy's John Hancock, but also a 7" vinyl record of him singing over I'm a Man, a song by his first band The Prime Movers. Way, way cool.

"People who are interested in Iggy and the Stooges, I think it's a natural," says the biographer who's become a friend of the frontman.

He solicited the opinions of several A-list rockstars about the effect this uncharacteristic band has had on them. A definite highlight of Total Chaos is the amazing story Dave Grohl relates about how his life was profoundly changed by Pop in 1990; the Iggster plucked him from pre-Nirvana obscurity to perform before a room of record executives at Toronto's Bovine Sex Club of all places.

Total Chaos: The Story of The Stooges is available on Amazon or Thrdmanbooks.com. COURTESY THIRD MAN BOOKS



> **You were this wasn't a guy making it up, that he actually did remember all of this.**
> Jeff Gold

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BOOK BRIEFS

Suspense novel up next for Girl on the Train author

The British author of The Girl on the Train will next tell a tale of murder in a riverside town.

Riverhead Books told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Paula Hawkins' Into the Water is a suspense novel about family secrets and "the slipperiness of truth" that will be published May 2. The plot centres on the discovery of the bodies of a mother and teenage girl at the bottom of a river and the investigation that follows. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **It's about how your memories of childhood shape you and make you the person you are.** Paula Hawkins

CALENDAR

A-Listers' natural beauty celebrated

Pirelli on Tuesday unveiled the 2017 edition of its famed calendar, which sees photographer Peter Lindbergh mature beyond snaps of seminude models and set his lens on Hollywood.

The calendar, entitled "Emotional" and launched in Paris, stars 14 Oscar-winning actresses featured in black-and-white close up, in clothed poses with invisible makeup.

It's a dramatic move away from decades of risqué shots that made the calendar, produced by the Italian tire manufacturer, one of the most recognizable in the world.

A-listers including Charlotte Rampling, Uma Thurman, Helen Mirren, Nicole Kidman, Lea Seydoux, Alicia Vikander, Kate Winslet, Julianne Moore, Lupita Nyong'o, Rooney Mara, Zhang Ziyi and Jessica Chastain all agreed to go near-makeup-free for the grown-up shoots.

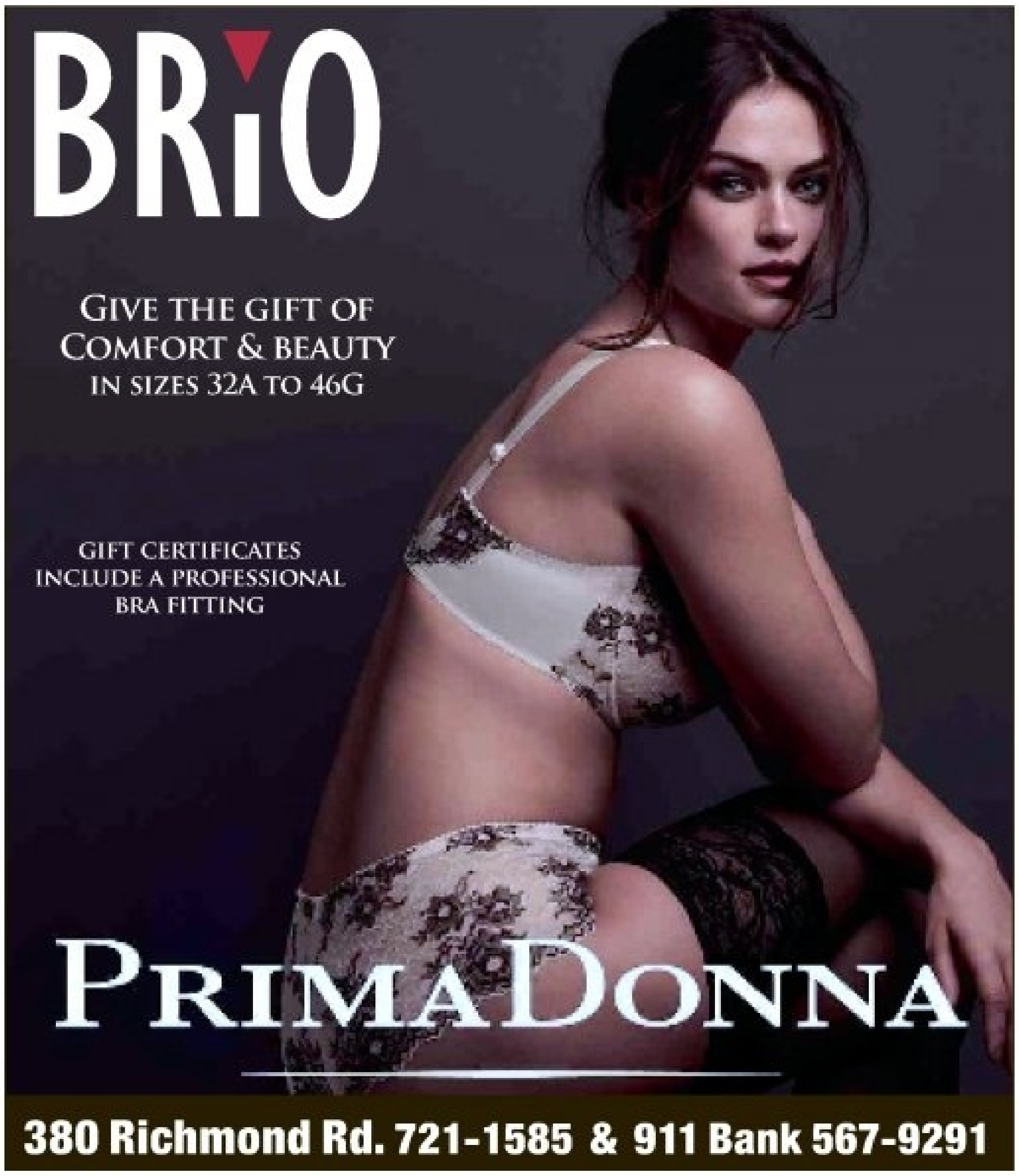
Speaking about his artistic choices, the German photographer said that he's "not so fond of high heels and bikinis" and wanted to capture the nakedness in the soul of the calendar's stars, not their bodies.

"In a time when women are represented in the media (as) perfection and truth, I thought it was important to remind people that there is a different beauty," Lindbergh said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nicole Kidman, left, and Uma Thurman. AP PHOTO/FRANCOIS MORI

> **I never let anything or anyone define me or my potential. I controlled my future.** Serena Williams

EQUITY WOMEN 'MUST CONTINUE TO DREAM BIG' Serena Williams has penned an open letter calling out what she sees as double standards faced by women in sports. The 22-time Grand Slam champion says people call her one of the "world's greatest female athletes," but notes that male athletes such as LeBron James and Tiger Woods aren't described by their gender. Williams says the equal pay issue frustrates her because women "have done the same work and made the same sacrifices as our male counterparts." She says women "must continue to dream big" to "empower the next generation of women to be just as bold in their pursuits." The letter was published in Porter Magazine and republished by British newspaper The Guardian. LUCA BRUNO/AP FILE



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GRAPHIC NOVEL

Millennial Batgirl breaks traditions

Seth's Dominion
By: Luc Chamberland (director of documentary); Seth (creator of comics)
Publisher: Drawn and Quarterly
$22.95; 41 minutes and 80 pages

Mike Donachie
Metro | Canada

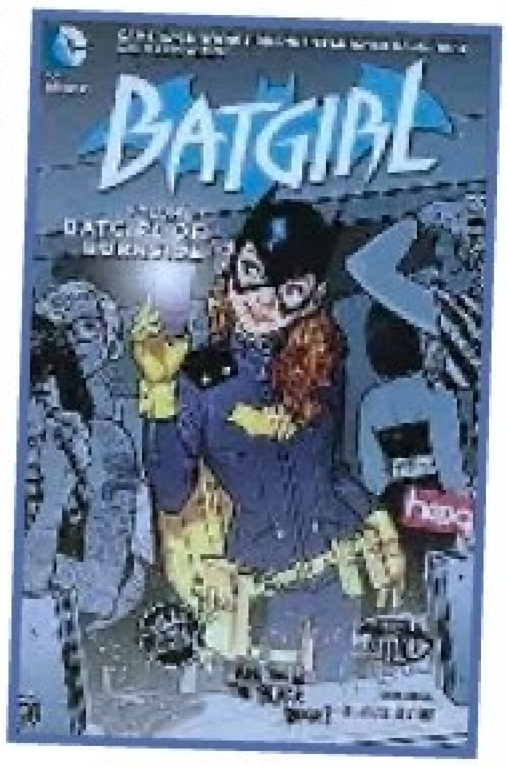
Few superhero reinventions have caused such a stir as this one. Batgirl is back, and this time she's a millennial.

Barbara Gordon has been around, in one form or another, since the 60s, and she's been through the wars. Batgirl has existed in many guises, too, with various faces under the cowl, but DC really hit the reset button in recent years, first by restoring Babs as Batgirl in 2011, and then with this 2014 partial relaunch as Batgirl of Burnside.

The gist is that Barbara, living with an empty bank account and having lost her costume in a fire, makes a new outfit with real, actual clothes and some fabric paint. Meanwhile, she's moved to Burnside, a hip area of Gotham City that closely resembles Brooklyn.

The result is a believable, relatable character who breaks from comic-book traditions in all the right ways. She still fights villains, but she also has a group of friends, online presence and party lifestyle that suit her age group.

It's fast-paced, fun storytelling in a great hardcover book. Cool stuff.



BOOK BRIEFS

Former senator in running for top literary award

Romeo Dallaire is in the running for the $25,000 RBC Taylor Prize recognizing works of literary non-fiction.

Dallaire is on the long list of a dozen contenders for Waiting for First Light: My Ongoing Battle with PTSD (Random House Canada). The book chronicles the retired lieutenant-general's struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder. The former senator and author of Shake Hands with the Devil and They Fight Like Soldiers, They Die Like Children was dismissed from military service in 2000 after being consumed by depression, anger and suicidal thoughts in the aftermath of witnessing the genocide in Rwanda.

The short list will be announced on Jan. 11 and the winner will be named at a gala luncheon on March 6.

Other books on the long list include Pumpkinflowers: A Soldier's Story of a Forgotten War by Matti Friedman (Algonquin Books) and Invisible North: The Search for Answers on a Troubled Reserve by Alexandra Shimo (Dundurn Press). THE CANADIAN PRESS

JAPAN

Murakami's new novel a mystery

Japanese author Haruki Murakami, centre, is releasing a new novel in Japan in February, and that's about as much as his fans are being told. MELISSA HJERRILD/POLFOTO VIA AP, FILE

Haruki Murakami's new novel is set for release in Japan in February, and that's about as much as his fans are being told.

Publisher Shinchosha Publishing Co. made the announcement Wednesday. The book's title, theme and exact date of release remain a mystery.

The publisher showed two blank white books on its website with the message, "Haruki Murakami's new novel coming soon in February 2017."

Murakami's longer novels have been released in multiple short volumes in Japanese.

A very strange story. That's how Murakami himself described the upcoming novel at an event in Denmark, where he recently travelled to receive the Hans Christian Andersen Literature Award.

There was no indication of when the new novel might be available outside of Japan.

Murakami, 67, usually shies away from the limelight, although he has spoken out on issues such as world peace and nuclear energy. He began writing while running a jazz bar in Tokyo after finishing college. His 1987 romantic novel Norwegian Wood was his first bestseller, establishing him as a young literary star.

Murakami's most recent novel is Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage, which was released in Japan in 2013.

A collection of short stories, Men Without Women, was published in 2014. His million-seller 1Q84 in 2009 was one of his longest novels, with the Japanese edition totalling three volumes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOP HONOURS

Obama welcomes 4 Nobel Prize laureates

President Barack Obama speaks to 2016 American Nobel Prize winners in the Oval Office. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama welcomed four recipients of the Nobel Prize to the White House on Wednesday. Singer Bob Dylan wasn't among them.

Obama used the Oval Office meeting to send a reminder that America is unique in its ability to attract talent from all around the world to study at its universities.

Obama met with Duncan Haldane and J. Michael Kosterlitz, laureates of this year's Nobel Prize in Physics; Oliver Hart, laureate of the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences; and Sir J. Fraser Stoddart, laureate of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Obama said their work would lead to new products and technology, some of which can't be anticipated yet, and would inspire future scholars and scientists.

Dylan was awarded the 2016 Nobel Prize for literature but won't be attending the prize ceremony. He may travel to Stockholm next year and might give his Nobel Lecture then.

There was much speculation going into the day about whether Dylan would skip the White House meeting.

But White House spokesman Josh Earnest said during Wednesday's press briefing that "unfortunately, for those of you wondering, Bob Dylan will not be at the White House today, so everybody can relax."

Earnest says Dylan didn't give a reason, but he noted that Dylan and the president had met previously and "the president enjoyed meeting him."

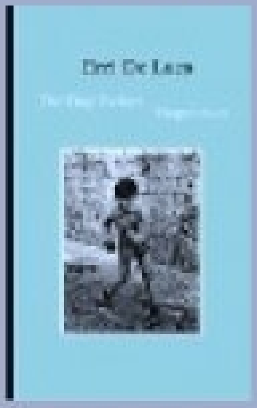
In 2012, Obama presented the singer-songwriter with a Presidential Medal of Freedom.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOOK BRIEFS

'Bad sex knows no borders'

Acclaimed Italian novelist Erri De Luca has added a somewhat tarnished trophy to his list of accolades — the Bad Sex in Fiction Award.



De Luca won the tongue-in-cheek prize Wednesday for The Day Before Happiness, the story of a Neapolitan orphan growing up after World War II.

Judges said they were swayed by a description of two lovers "like ballet dancers hovering en pointe." They said De Luca's victory "is a reminder that, even in the wake of Brexit, bad sex knows no borders."

A novelist, poet, essayist and translator, De Luca is the 24th winner of the Bad Sex prize, awarded by the Literary Review magazine to spotlight "poorly written, perfunctory or redundant" sex writing.

Explicitly pornographic works aren't eligible.

Past winners include Norman Mailer and Tom Wolf.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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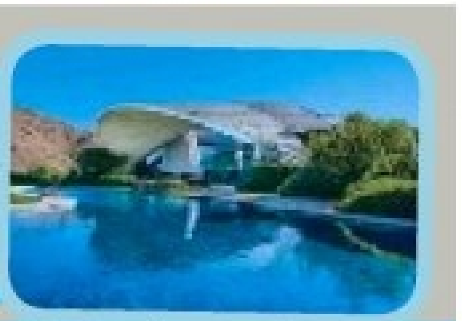
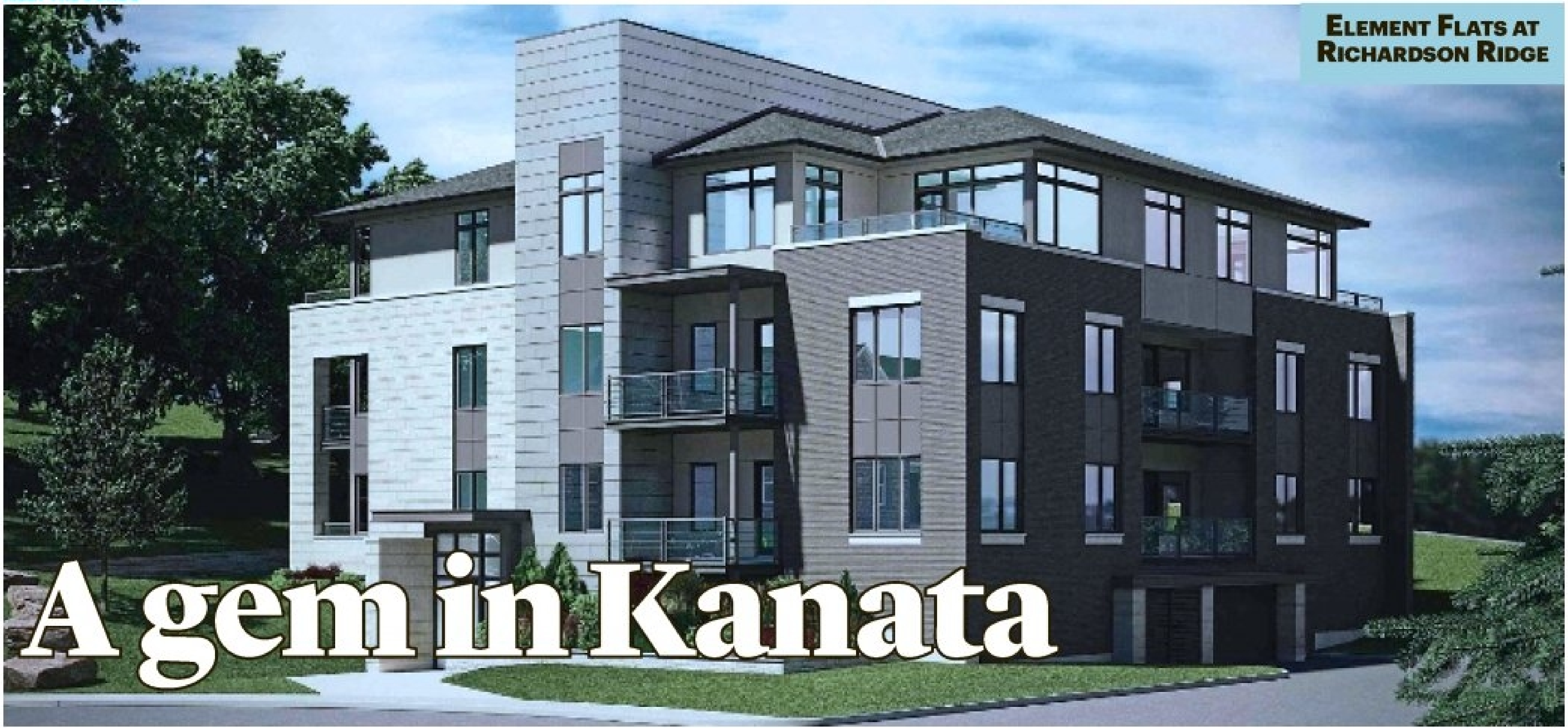
Your essential daily news



Palm Springs 'UFO' home of the late Bob Hope sells for $13 million U.S.

MEET THE CONDO

Element Flats at Richardson Ridge



A gem in Kanata

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

This past summer, Uniform Urban Developments began construction on a new group of condominium flats as part of their established Richardson Ridge development. The eight flats, which are designed by architect Barry J. Hobin, will be available at the end of next summer or early fall.

Housing amenities

The buildings include underground and above ground parking, as well as access to the Clubhouse — a restored heritage farmhouse that can be used for private functions, family reunions or community events. The flats offer maintenance-free living and a variety of features, including with nine-foot ceilings, oak hardwood and granite countertops.

Location and transit

Located in Kanata, close to numerous amenities, the condos are just off Terry Fox Drive, meaning easy access to both of Kanata's main park and rides, as well as multiple other bus stops. Hwy 417 is close by, and downtown Ottawa is approximately 20 minutes away. The area has schools, churches and sport facilities, as well as multiple shopping and grocery options.

In the neighbourhood

The Centrum Shopping Centre and Tanger Outlets are nearby, offering a range of shopping and entertainment options, including Landmark Cinemas. The neighbourhood consists of a range of different style homes and parks, providing a great, relaxed atmosphere for families and professionals who wish to be close to downtown but still live in a quieter area.

ILANA REIMER/FOR METRO

NEED TO KNOW

What: Element Flats at Richardson Ridge
Builder: Uniform Urban Developments
Designer: Barry J. Hobin & Associates Architects
Location: Off of Terry Fox Drive
Building: Condominium flats
Size: 787 square feet to 1510 square feet
Pricing: Starting at $253,000
Model: One to two bedrooms, one to two bathrooms
Status: Now selling
Occupancy: Late summer/early fall 2017
Sales centre: 100 Grand Manan Cir.
Phone: 613-435-7751
Website: uniformdevelopments.com

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Gardeners make great friends

GIFT GIVING

Preserves in a pretty package are great presents

Holidays are the perfect time to give foods preserved from your garden.

The top five canning recipes used during the holidays are for applesauce, cranberry sauce, jalapeno jelly, apple pie filling and sauerkraut, according to a recent survey by Jarden Home Brands, makers of Ball-brand mason jars.

There appears to be a distinctive second season for food preservation — a spike from late November into December made by canners who want to share homemade gifts in jars.

"Many consumers can syrups, jellies and sauces to give away as holiday gifts, along with crafting and decor use for the holidays," said Jeff Marvel, a Jarden spokesman.

The jars themselves can be collector's items and serving accessories on tables or sideboards.

"People prefer to see the vibrant colours of their fresh-packed tomatoes or peaches in clear glass," said Judy Harrold, Jarden's consumer affairs manager. "Things like granola and layered cooking mixes tend to look better in coloured jars. The same goes for non-food items like candles, potpourri, bath salts and collectibles."

Gardeners' holiday gifts are driven in part by the kinds of edibles harvested late in the growing season, and in part by traditional holiday menus.

Younger canners are using ingredients from all over, Harrold said.

"They rely more on farmers' markets than they do backyard gardens for their produce. And they only go to the grocery store when they don't have an ingredient to fit into their recipes," she said.

All of the food-preservation techniques — canning, freezing, dehydrating, fermenting and cold storage — delay or stop spoilage while sealing in flavour and nutritional value. But home canners must use the proper techniques so they don't pass along any food-borne illnesses.

Under-processing canned goods could lead to bacteria in the food without any outward signs of spoilage, said Elizabeth Andress, a University of Georgia food-safety specialist.

"Gift giving is not a good time to experiment or try new procedures," Andress said. "If you're talking canning, don't experiment with anything in the low-acid realm at all." That would include meats and vegetables.

Also, ensure that the jars you use are meant for canning.

"Some jars are intended for non-canning purposes, like crafts," and can't withstand the heat or temperature changes of the canning process, Andress said.

Be descriptive with jar labels. You can make your own or find labels made-to-order online.

"In addition to letting the receiver know exactly what the food is by listing the ingredients on the label, it's a nice touch to recommend how to use it," Andress said. "Things like apple rings or chutneys or pepper jellies. The latter is especially good with cream cheese."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PEAR CHUTNEY 8.15
PLUM JAM 7/15

Hand-written labels add a personal touch. DEAN FOSDICK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **Gift giving is not a good time to experiment or try new procedures.... If you're talking canning, don't experiment with anything in the low-acid realm.**
> Elizabeth Andress

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PERFORMANCE BY THE RENAISSANCE CAROLERS STARTS AT 5:00PM.

Donations of non-perishable food items to the Westboro Food Bank will be graciously accepted.

Friends who reno stay together

RENO ROOKIE

Renovations are the closest thing to ‘play’ for adult men

Matthew Chung
For Torstar News Service

Matthew Chung (right) seen here with his childhood friend and now neighbour Karl. Renovations aren't always fun, but when you get a little help from your friends, the experience changes from a chore to a chance to bond, writes Chung. NICK KOZAK/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

I'd never felt so relaxed in the midst of a renovation.

Sure, the deck was being demolished, we weren't sure what we'd find underneath and the work had to be completed that weekend or the deck builders wouldn't be able to start on schedule.

But this wasn't my house. It belongs to my childhood friend Karl. He'd organized a small team — his brother, another friend and me — to help fill his dumpster with splintered deck boards. He would have to decide how to remove the poured concrete we discovered below the boards.

All I had to worry about was whether or not Karl had stocked enough beer for post-demolition drinks.

After nearly a year of doing renovations at my own home, I still don't particularly enjoy spending my spare time trying to fix things through trial, error and YouTube.

But I have enjoyed the opportunity to hang out with good people that the projects provide. Especially since, now firmly entrenched in my #adulting years, those opportunities are scarce.

For instance, as kids, Karl and I played baseball and basketball in the summer and built snow forts in the wintertime.

Now, through coincidence and circumstance (that is, we couldn't afford to buy a house elsewhere in our city) we live just a 10-minute walk from each other. Yet I doubt we would see each other as often as we do if not for one of us seeming to always have a project on the go.

I guess the closest thing to "play" for adult men, short of beer league softball and pickup hockey, is home renovations.

Except there's a lot at stake in this game, which makes me grateful for the friends who either know more than I do or are just eager to lend a hand.

If not for my discovery of a mysterious crack in my ceiling, a year likely would have passed before I next saw my cousin Tim, a veteran DIY-er with experience repairing walls and ceilings.

Instead, we spent half-a-dozen weekends catching up and sharing stories, while working toward hanging drywall in my living and dining room.

> **If not for my discovery of a mysterious crack in my ceiling, a year likely would have passed before I next saw my cousin Tim.**

I'm sure that by the second weekend he was wishing he hadn't responded to my Facebook messages. But we were all smiling a couple of months later when my wife and I were able to host Tim, his wife and their daughter for dinner in the dining room he'd helped me renovate.

So, I was smiling wide as I took baseball-style swings with a sledgehammer at what had been Karl's deck steps, not just because it was fun but because I was thinking of all the barbecues he'd be hosting next summer.

"Are you going to put in a hot tub?" I quipped between carrying cinder blocks and wood to the bin.

Meanwhile, Karl's brother considered Karl's plans to build a two-level deck and joked, "Have you thought about building a slide?" Now, that's what friends are for.

Matthew Chung, 33, is a communications manager living in and attempting to renovate his first house. You can follow his progress on Instagram @mjechung.

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WE TRIED IT

Life-hack put to the test

Ariel Teplitsky
Torstar News Service

The problem
You want to shave, put on makeup, brush your teeth or just stare into your own beautiful eyes after a nice refreshing shower — but now the mirror is all fogged up.

You could wipe it with your hand, but that will leave streaks and the fog will fast return, a perplexing problem indeed.

Dear lord, there must be a better way!

The solution
Your most petty prayers have been answered.

According to life hack science, all you need is a dollop of shaving cream.

Let's see if it works.

Step 1:
Squirt

Step 2:
Smear

Step 3:
Wipe away with a wet cloth.

Step 4:
Hot 'n' steamy shower.

The result
The mirror is all fogged up! That didn't work at all.

But what if the problem was the shaving cream I used?

Maybe the all-natural, fragrance-free, "botanical blend" cream is lacking in fog-inhibiting chemicals.

Test 2:
I redo the test with good, old-fashioned, totally unnatural shaving foam, smearing it on the mirror then wiping it away before hopping in a hot shower.

The result:
Eureka!

It worked perfectly, leaving a circle of clarity in the middle of a fogged-up looking glass. Life hackers recommend the technique for defogging eyeglasses and windows as well.

May the view of your perfect face never be obstructed again.

WE THE NORTH

The Canadian Olympic Committee has partnered with the creative agency that developed the Toronto Raptors' "We The North" campaign

QB controversy begins

REDBLACKS

Team unsure if Burris or Harris will take snaps in 2017

Trevor Harris and Henry Burris took turns as the Redblacks' starting quarterback this season but it was Burris who led them to victory in the Grey Cup game. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Still basking in the afterglow of their first Grey Cup victory, the Ottawa Redblacks know some hard decisions are coming this off-season.

While general manager Marcel Desjardins will be busy dealing with free agents and acquiring new talent, the biggest question hanging over the Redblacks this off-season could be how they handle their quarterback situation.

Ottawa has Grey Cup MVP Henry Burris and Trevor Harris under contract for 2017 and it's unlikely either would be satisfied with a supporting role next year.

The Redblacks acquired Harris last season with the understanding that he would be the starter for 2017, but Burris has shown he's still a big-game quarterback at age 41 after his Grey Cup performance.

Burris was unavailable for the final media availability as he dealt with a knee injury suffered during warm-ups at the Grey Cup, but has said he won't make a decision on his future until at least January.

"The whole process with respect to Henry is going to come down to what he wants to do and what he and his family feel is in their best interest moving forward," Desjardins said. "If you were to ask me this at the beginning of the year, which you may have, I would have said I would expect him to be back in 2017, but you never know how things play out.

"If everything is storybook ending then maybe he changes his plans. Obviously the knee issue is something to be considered as well and at the end of the day he'll make a decision that's best for him."

When asked if Harris would be their starter for 2017, Desjardins said "in terms of how the contracts are structured, that is on paper how it will be as of today."

> **I just know that I'm ready to be a franchise quarterback.**
> Trevor Harris

Having played behind quality quarterbacks his entire career, Harris is excited at the prospect of being the number-one guy.

"I just know that I'm ready to be a franchise quarterback and that's just how I feel," Harris said. "That's why I came here. I knew what the situation was this year and was happy to do whatever I needed to do.

"I just know where I'm at as a quarterback and as a person and the age I'm at and I'm ready to move forward as a franchise guy. Whenever that's my time I'll be ready."

Harris says if Burris returns he'll deal with the situation when the time comes.

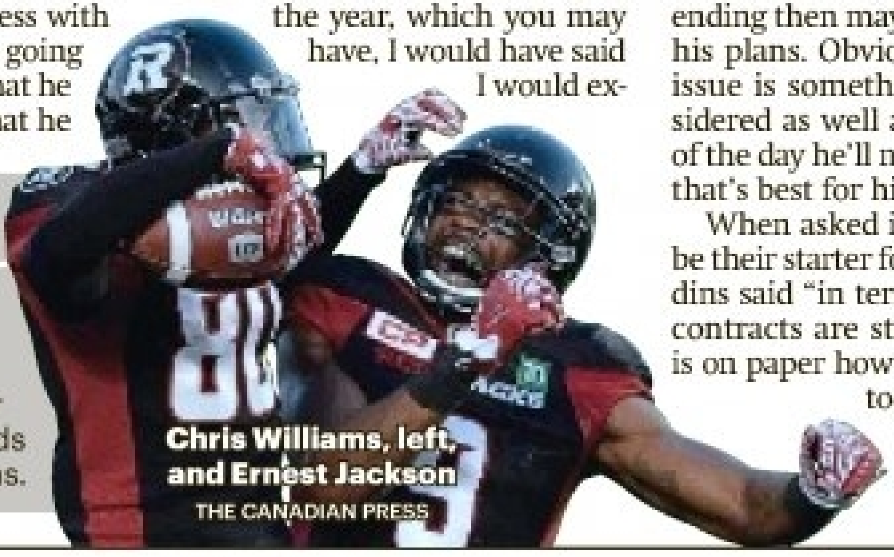
Burris was clearly bothered by losing the starter's job this season and if healthy would likely want to play an integral role.

"When we signed Trevor, before we even went down that path, we had a discussion with Henry as it relates to 2017 and what the plan would be," Desjardins said. "Nobody would have expected it necessarily to play out the way it did, but these are circumstances we have to deal with now which is not a bad place to be to be honest with you."

For now Desjardins expects both will be in camp to start the season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCHEDULED FREE AGENCY

- Ottawa will have some big decisions to make as far as its receiving corps as Greg Ellingson, Ernest Jackson and Chris Williams are all set to become free agents.
- All three had over 1,000 receiving yards the past two seasons.


Chris Williams, left, and Ernest Jackson THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHAPECOENSE

'We will rebuild this club'

Six players, a handful of support staff, and deep sorrow are all that remain of Brazil's Chapecoense soccer club.

They will still try to play again. Because they know that's what their 19 teammates who died when a charter plane ripped into an Andean mountainside would want them to do.

"In the memory of those who died and to honour their families, we will rebuild this club from scratch so it is even stronger," club director and local businessman Cecilio Hans said. "We had material assets and human assets. Now we've lost nearly all of our human assets."

3

Only three players survived the crash, and all are recovering at a hospital in Colombia.

Other clubs in Brazil's top league are offering to loan players to Chapecoense, with a proposal that the modest club in deep southern Brazil is guaranteed to stay in the top division for the next three years.

"The club will rebuild, I am sure," said Walter Feldman, secretary general of the Brazilian Football Confederation. "Eight clubs have already called me to offer concrete, material solidarity. We are studying ways to best help."

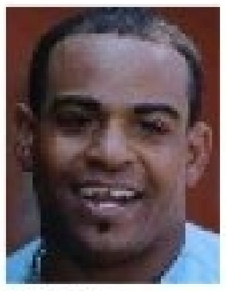
Monday's crash occurred as the team was on its way to the two-game final of the Copa Sudamericana — the No. 2 tournament on the continent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A boy takes part in a tribute to the victims in Medellin, Colombia, on Wednesday.
RAUL ARBOLEDA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

MLB

Cespedes, Mets make deal official


Yoenis Cespedes
GETTY IMAGES

Yoenis Cespedes and the New York Mets have finalized a $110-million, four-year contract.

Cespedes and the team were to discuss the deal at a news conference Wednesday at Citi Field.

A two-time all-star, Cespedes gets $22.5 million in 2017, $29 million in each of the following two seasons and $29.5 million in 2020.

The 31-year-old outfielder receives a full no-trade provision as part of the agreement, the largest for a free agent thus far this off-season. The deal's $27.5-million average annual value ties former Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez for the second-highest among position players, trailing only Miguel Cabrera's $29.2 million with Detroit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Sens' Anderson takes leave to tend to wife

Ottawa Senators goaltender Craig Anderson has taken a leave of absence from the team as his wife, Nicholle, battles a rare form of throat cancer.

The Senators announced the development on Twitter and said Anderson isn't expected to be available for Ottawa's game Thursday against visiting Philadelphia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MMA

GSP among stars who launch guild

Former UFC champions Georges St. Pierre, Cain Velasquez and T.J. Dillashaw have joined an attempt to form a mixed martial arts fighters association.

Current UFC fighters Donald (Cowboy) Cerrone and Tim Kennedy also announced their participation Wednesday in an organizing effort led by fighters and joined by Bjorn Rebney, the former CEO of Bellator.

The Mixed Martial Arts Athletes Association is the latest attempt to organize fighters in a famously individualistic sport into a collective bargaining unit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIVALS

Three of the involved fighters are represented by Creative Artists Agency, a rival of the WME-IMG conglomerate which bought the UFC earlier this year.

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Fragrant One Pot Sweet Potato and Arugula Pasta

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

The peppery arugula and woody rosemary are the perfect match for sweet potato in this dish designed for fall.

Ready in 30 minutes
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 500 grams penne pasta
- 8 cups baby arugula
- 1 sweet potato, diced into small cubes
- 4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 1 shallot, cut into thinly sliced
- 1 sprig of rosemary
- 3 Tbsp of olive oil, plus 1 for garnish
- 1 Tbsp salt
- 6 cups water
- 1/2 cup grated Asiago or Parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

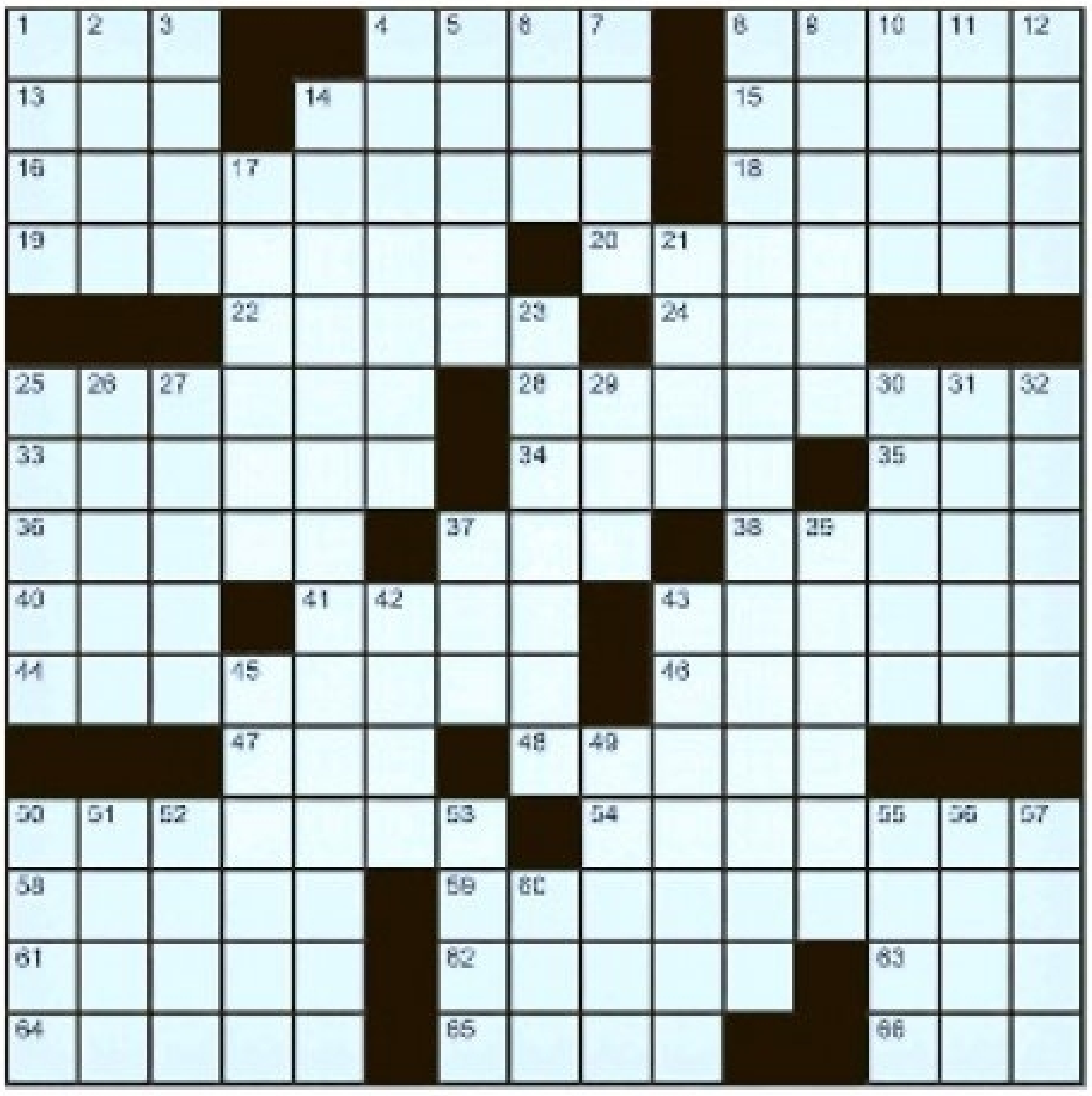
1. Combine penne, arugula, sweet potato, garlic, shallot, rosemary, 2 Tbsp oil, salt and water in a stock pot. Bring to boil over high heat. Cook, stirring pasta frequently, until pasta is cooked al dente and water is nearly evaporated, about 10 minutes.

2. Remove pot from heat and take out the rosemary stem. Stir in the last tablespoon of oil, cheese and season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve with another sprinkle of cheese.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. River for Calgary
4. Biblical land where Moses was buried
8. Reads 'em and does this
13. A famous Charlotte
14. H.H. _ (British author whose pen name was Saki)
15. Peculiarly
16. Alberta hamlet east of Edmonton
18. _-sized (Printer paper selection)
19. Main meaning
20. Canadian restaurant chain; or, Mr. Grammer's of "Frasier"
22. Fanatic sects
24. Sure-footed animal
25. Conniver's creation
28. NY, ME and CA, e.g.: 2 wds.
33. Guided
34. Mark Antony's love, to pals
35. "_ _ little teapot..."
36. Swiss-peaks related
37. Cavemen yrs.
38. Canadian ski legend Ms. Greene
40. Needs-to-be-sewn site
41. Spandau Ballet hit
43. Posh couch
44. Worker's wish: 2 wds.
46. Canyon communicator
47. Municipal council member, e.g.
48. Tractor company, John _
50. 1990s MTV personality Daisy
54. Ms. Newton of "The Pursuit of Happyness" (2006)
58. Soap actress Ms. Slezak
59. Powerview-_ _, Manitoba
61. Mr. Sedaka's
62. Not connected
63. Dixie Cups song, when doubled
64. Star Trek: Father of Mr. Spock
65. Rhinoplasty location
66. '_' _ in Xylophone

DOWN
1. Hillside
2. Rows
3. Gets hitched
4. Built like a bodybuilder
5. Commencement
6. 1920 T.S. Eliot volume of poetry, _ Vos Prec
7. Strike
8. Frankenstein creator formally, Mary _ Shelley (b.1797 - d.1851)
9. The ancient Turkish city of Urfa as it was known in Mesopotamia
10. The _ (U2 guitarist)
11. Dramatist's creation
12. Hockey Hall of Famer Mr. Apps'
14. Undertaking for the valiant: 2 wds.
17. Draw back
21. Naturalness
23. Deliver the goods
25. Piercing
26. Shakespeare: As You Like It role
27. Pharrell Williams' uplifting hit
29. John and Yoko's son ...his initials-sharers
30. Rio _ Alcan Planetarium (Montreal space attraction)
31. Ryan Seacrest, for one
32. Brit singer Leo
37. Greyhound vehicle
39. The Parthenon goddess
42. Roller Coaster, for example
43. "Hold on just one second and listen!": 2 wds.
45. Grate/bother
49. Sicily's volcano, and namesakes
50. Marshes
51. Carbamide
52. The Queen's cypher: letter + Roman Numeral + letter
53. Duration
55. Gladiator's 559
56. Ms. Gruning of "Casablanca" (1942)
57. Those, in Spanish
60. Company's stock mkt. debut

✶ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

♈ **Aries** March 21 - April 20
This is a fabulous day to schmooze with others. Enjoy your interactions with groups and friends, as well as partners and those who are close to you. Laugh it up!

♉ **Taurus** April 21 - May 21
Today you make a great impression on bosses, parents, VIPs and anyone in a position of authority (including the police). Your ambition is strong, and so is your confidence.

♊ **Gemini** May 22 - June 21
Do whatever you can to take a vacation or find a change of scenery, because you need this. Today you want adventure, thrills and a chance to learn something new and exciting!

♋ **Cancer** June 22 - July 23
This is an excellent day to discuss shared property, taxes, debt and inheritances, because quite likely you will end up laughing all the way to the bank.

♌ **Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23
Your interactions with others are positive and dynamic today, primarily because you have lots of energy. Because enthusiasm is always contagious, people are pumped to be in your presence.

♍ **Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will get a lot done at work today because you are energetic, focused and upbeat. A happy mind that is ready to work is unstoppable!

♎ **Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Accept all invitations to party, because © 2016 King Features Syndicate, Inc. today is a wonderful, social day for you. Enjoy the arts, sports events, playful times with children and romantic liaisons.

♏ **Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Increased activity and chaos on the home front might be a challenge. However, today you have the energy to pull your act together at home. Do what you can.

♐ **Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will be successful in all your communication. This is great news for those of you who sell, market, teach, act or write for a living.

♑ **Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
This is a moneymaking day for you! Trust your moneymaking ideas. All of your financial negotiations will benefit you.

♒ **Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Fiery Mars is in your sign today, dancing with lucky Jupiter. This gives you lots of positive get up and go! It's a great day for athletics and outdoor activities.

♓ **Pisces**
Feb. 20 - March 20
Secret liaisons will be exciting today. (This includes private love affairs.) You're happy to work alone today.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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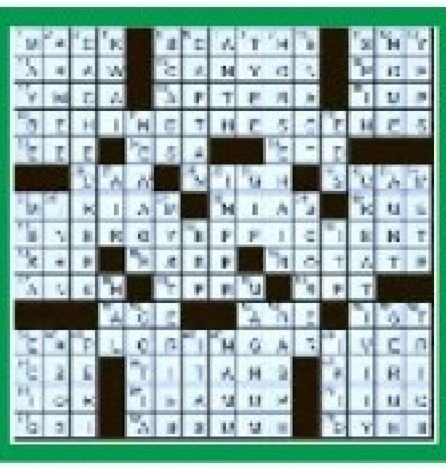

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5	9	6	4	1	7	2	8	3
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mattamy HOMES

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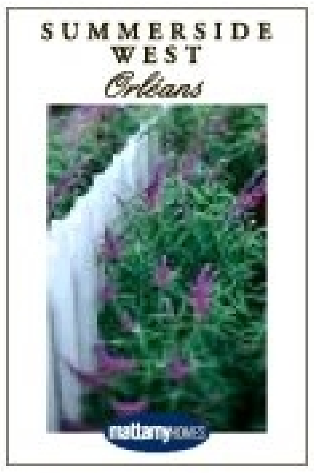
The Walnut Model Home
in Summerside West, Orléans



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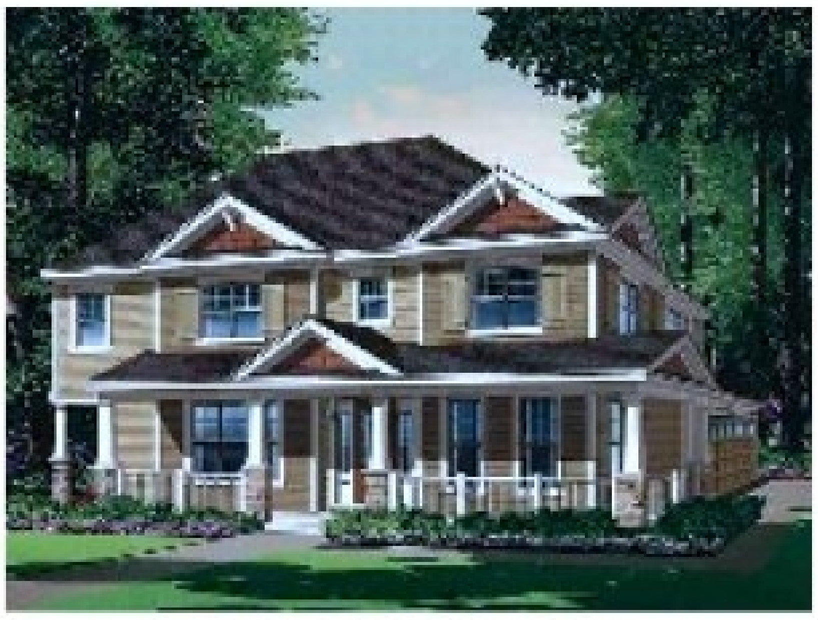
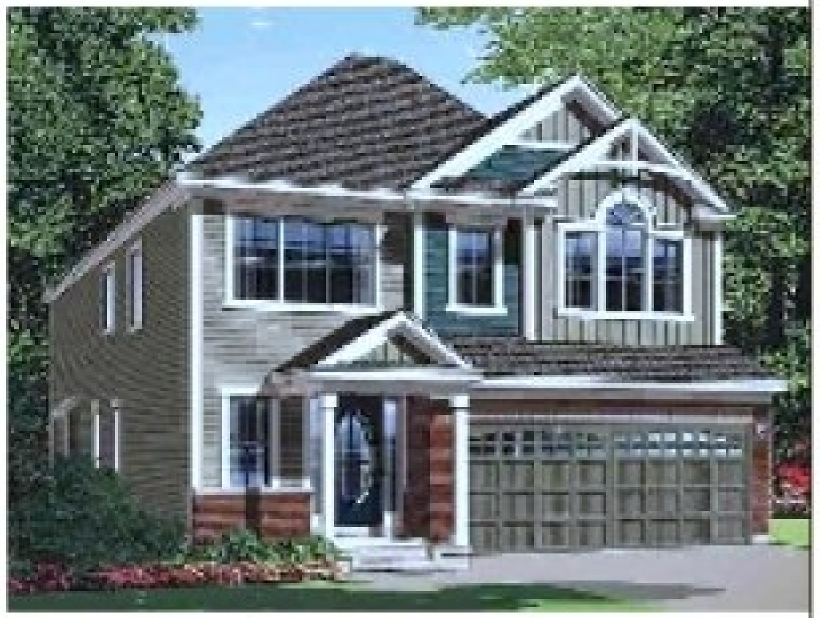
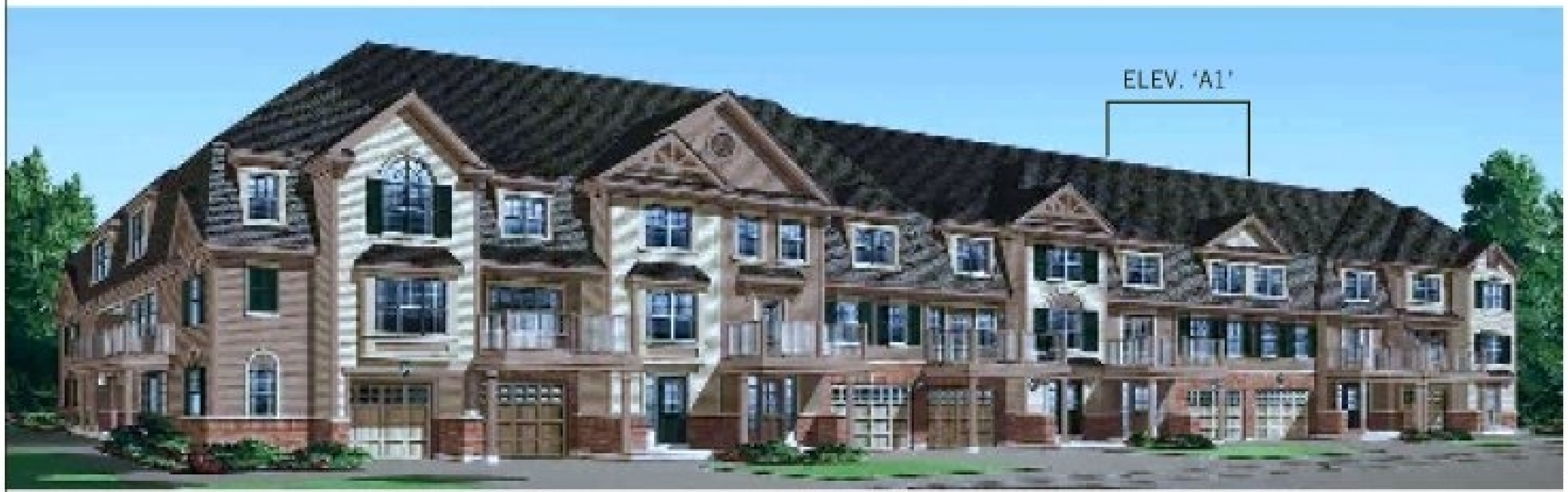


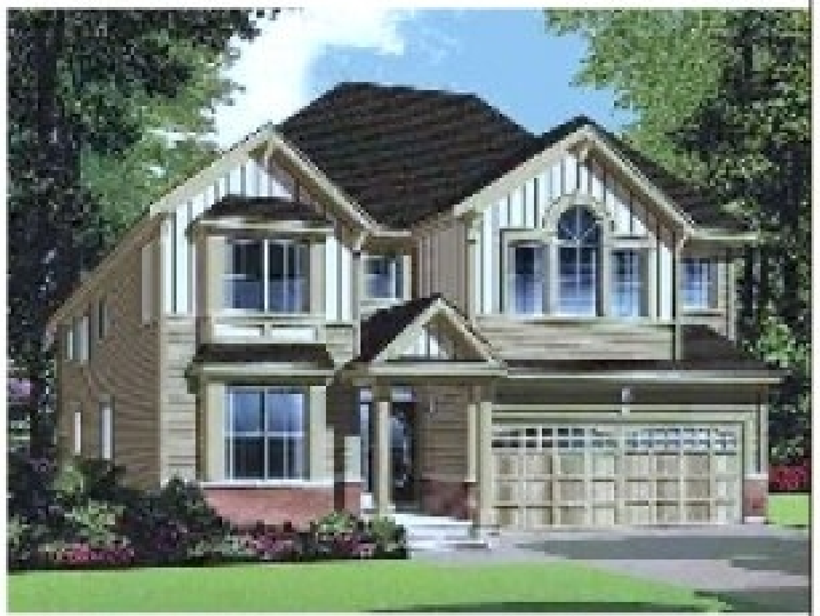
30' HOME, THE MARIGOLD CORNER 'A' 1,710 SQ.FT. $354,990



36' HOME, THE PARKSIDE 'A' 2,669 SQ.FT. $451,990



VILLAGE HOME, THE APPLEBY 'A1' 1,100 SQ.FT. $229,990



43' HOME, THE WALNUT 'A' 3,218 SQ.FT. $524,990

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